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FEBRUARY 14 / 2002 [54.23]

being queer for 53 years

hunger

is it possible to take you
all of you
(or at least most)
and twist you
squish you
bend you
pull you
and make you
mine
take you from them and make you
i will sleep with who i want to
i want to take you, purify you
refine you
define you
hold you
mould you
wrap you around my body
wrap my body around you
i want to dance to the sound of you
pouring from my mouth
i want to spit you
to kiss you
to give you new life in my children
i want to weave you into a fabric
to sew you
i want to sew you
to grow you
to reap you
to feed you
to all of us
who for so long your creators have starved

recycled words

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Net sites make up for lack of queer print media

by Ian Cummins

Canada is sorely lacking quality queer print media. So the key to staying informed about queer-related news is to check the Web. I went looking for interesting, informative and well-constructed websites that I thought deserved to be bookmarked:

If you want a comprehensive site on current queer related news, I recommend visiting **hrc.org**, the website for the Human Rights Campaign, which is an American group that advocates bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgendered rights. This is an outstanding site and really easy to navigate. (Since hrc.org is focused on events in the U.S., check out the site for Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere - **egale.org** - for Canadian news.)

To put the North American civil rights movement in perspective, visit **ilga.org**, the International Lesbian and Gay Association's website. It's pretty basic in terms of graphics but it offers a country by country survey of laws (or lack thereof) concerning homosexual behaviour and relations. It's always a good idea to take a moment, step away from what's happening in North America and focus on events around the world. Personally, I had no idea that Fiji has been embroiled in debates over homosexuality ever since it amended its constitution in 1998 to make discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal.

Considering the amount of attention that the Arab world is receiving lately, you'll definitely want to explore **glas.org/ahbab**, the site for the gay and lesbian Arab society. The Arab understanding of homosexuality is radically different from Western world views; this topic is explored in the site's many articles. It was obvious from reading these that gay Arabs (there was no mention of women) feel very torn between Western and Arabic traditions. For a more graphic depiction of the lifestyle that gay Arabs in the Middle East are forced to live, visit **http://surf.to/gay.lebanon**. It ranks bars, clubs and cafes in Beirut in terms of how gay-positive they are, and it seems that even the most gay-positive spots can be dangerous.

If you would like to know a little more about the relationship between the queer community and the world of advertising, go to **commercialcloset.org**, a non-profit organization that records how companies use queers in advertising. The site has a huge archive of old ads, featuring interesting trends. There is also a list of the "Leaders and Laggards" of 2001, the companies and marketing firms that produced the most queer positive, and negative ads of the year.

Interested in knowing more about homosexuality in Japan between the years of 1500 and 1900? Do you want accounts revealing experiences gay members of American fraternities have had? I found both at **queertheory.com**, an incredible online book-store.

Technodyke.com proclaims itself the "gathering place for the web-savvy dyke". I am not web-savvy, and I'm not a dyke, but I loved this site. It's colourful, it's funny and it's easy-to-use. Astrology, advice, chat rooms and fiction are all offered here, as well as instructions on do-it-yourself html development, graphic design and programming. If you are a writer, the site accepts both fiction and non-fiction submissions, as long you are a lesbian, bisexual or transgendered woman.

Finally, I have to recommend **hedda.com**, the website of a drag queen and comedian in New York by the name of Hedda Lettuce. I started warming to drag shows when I first saw the B-girls perform and this site is definitely a must. Hedda's writing, diary-entries and drawings are all posted and she also offers an advice column if you have any questions about life in drag and other such things.

Collective provides support on campus

by Jeff Andrew

"To represent, advocate for, and provide services for queer students on campus."

This is the mandate of the UVic Pride Collective, a UVSS constituency group formed to give support to queer students and to provide a channel for queer-based activism.

The collective organizes weekly Coming Out Support Group meetings, coffee nights at the Moka House in Cook Street Village and monthly movie nights.

In addition, Pride's office space in the SUB houses a library of books on queer issues and provides a safe space for students.

Pride members say the goal is to create a community environment where queer students can learn about themselves, support each other and help people through the often traumatic process of coming out.

It's also a great way to have fun and meet new people.

"The collective has made it easier for me to find ways to express myself, politically and otherwise," said Lisa Crossman, Pride's resource and support co-ordinator. "Plus the office is a good safe space to hang out."

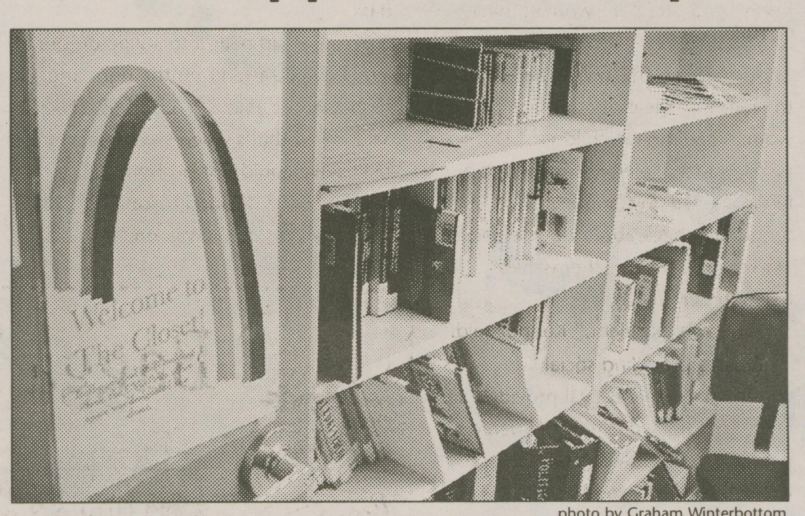

photo by Graham Winterbottom

The Pride Collective provides a resource library and a safe space to hang out.

The collective also organizes events celebrating alternate lifestyles in Victoria.

Planning is under way for the March 23 Groovefest, a music and arts festival celebrating diversity. Then there's the annual Pride Prom, "where two tuxedo-clad boys can dance slow under a glitter ball or two girls can share a moment in a kiss over by the veggies and dip," reads Pride's website.

The collective also makes a point of participating in the AIDS Walk every year and are strong supporters of National Coming Out Day in October.

Support and activism drive the collective. Call them cheerleaders for the queer generation.

UVic addresses violence

by Kevin Groves

Inspired in part by the vicious beating of a gay man in Vancouver last winter, the UVic community is taking steps to eradicate queer bashing on campus.

Dan Kerr, a member of the UVic Pride Collective, is quick to give UVic's Campus Security high marks for maintaining queer awareness within their staff and around campus.

"A couple of times Pride has been invited to speak to Campus Security about queer issues," Kerr said. "There is also advocacy at the administration level and the results have always been really good."

On Nov. 17 an undetermined number of assailants beat gay Vancouver resident Aaron Webster to death in Vancouver's Stanley Park. At the time, Vancouver police said Webster's murder was B.C.'s first reported hate-inspired murder of a gay man.

Kerr said Webster's death is one of several queer bashing incidents he and his office have heard of in B.C. over the years.

Queer bashing can occur verbally or physically and is not confined to Vancouver, he said.

On one occasion Kerr and a few friends experienced both types of queer bashing outside BJ's nightclub in downtown Victoria.

"A couple of guys were yelling stuff at us from across the street and we ended up trading blows," Kerr said. "We then got into our car and left."

He said his group filled out a police report but the incident was never followed up.

Alison Eddy, safety coordinator for Campus Security, said since students are generally reluctant to report queer bashing her office does not receive many reports. Campus security has had no reports of queer bashing on campus yet this year.

Still, if her office did receive a call, Eddy said it would be treated as a top priority. But how far the report is investigated depends, in part, on the complainant's wishes.

"I want everyone to feel safe and welcome at UVic," Eddy said.

Liisa Gibson, residence life coordinator for UVic Housing, said her department also does not receive many reports of queer bashing at UVic.

"The incidents of queer bashing I've heard of involve verbal assaults or written remarks," she said. "I have never had a report of physical queer bashing."

Gibson said her department tries to make sure its programming recognizes the diversity of UVic Residences' population, and if harassment does take place, it is dealt with swiftly.

"If the behaviour continues we may go to an eviction notice," she said.

Eddy, along with members of UVic Housing, Counseling Services, Campus Security, faculty and students sit on the Campus Committee of Sexual and Gender Diversity.

The committee discusses how UVic administration could educate campus on queer bashing and other issues surrounding diversity and sexuality.

"I would encourage anyone that has had an incident of queer bashing happen to them to report it to Campus Security," said Eddy.

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Border crossings – a tranny travelogue

By John Thompson

When Nick Matte and Konnor Brett left Victoria on Sep. 17, they planned to ride their bikes down the coast until they hit Mexico.

The details of their trip weren't clear yet, but they both knew their journey would involve exploring their identities, as well as the landscape.

Both were born as women, but self-identify as men. Nick is 23, has glasses and boyish features and graduated last April from UVic with a degree in history and philosophy.

Konnor is 26, wears a baseball cap, has stubble on his face and is finishing a degree in sociology and women's studies.

After working last summer, they both decided to abandon their possessions and hit the road.

"The idea for the trip was to interview people about trans issues," Konnor said, with the intention of writing a book about the experience later.

The two traveled as a "self-sustaining unit," with each bike loaded down with four panniers and slept in their tent at campsites for almost the entire trip. In total, they rode approximately 2,000 kilometers.

"We didn't have a bath for two months," Nick said proudly.

"We kept our sweaty clothes outside of the tent," Konnor added.

Leaving only five days after the terrorist attacks on the United States, security at the border crossing was particularly suspicious. They carried needles for hormone therapy and their identities had several discrepancies. Their birth certificates were marked "F" but most other IDs carried an "M."

"I think they were concerned that fluidity of identity was a dangerous thing to let across the border," Nick said.

Most of their belongings were initially confiscated, but they were eventually let through and everything was returned.

They traveled along the Oregon coast without stopping until around mid-October, surviving on a diet of oatmeal for breakfast, peanut-butter sandwiches for lunch and either spaghetti, chili or rice, beans and vegetables for supper. They kept moving until they reached Eureka, outside of Arcadia.

"In Eureka I broke a spoke, so we had to stay a little while," Konnor said.

While waiting for bike repairs, they visited Humboldt State University, where they found out a Women's Studies lecture called "Transgendered Lives" was about to begin.

They ended up staying for over a week, speaking to classes about their different backgrounds and experiences transitioning.

"At that university it was pretty much an introduction for most people," Nick said.

During their trip, they both needed to inject themselves with testosterone once a week. Three vials of the hormone can cost between $80 and $120 and will last six months.

Nick began transitioning one year ago and Konnor two years ago. They both consider themselves to be in the beginning stages of transition. "Our bodies are still changing over time," Nick said.

In order to receive an "M" on their drivers licenses, they will require chest surgery and a hysterectomy. They both feel chest surgery is important, but Nick questions the need for a hysterectomy.

"They don't think a man could reproduce, basically," Nick said. "I think that's not necessarily the best way to define men. I think it has more to do with a fear of people who are either or both, in society."

They carried on down the coast and passed through the Redwood forests of Northern California, which Nick described as the most memorable experience.

"There were all these trees that had fallen and were decomposing and you could actually sit inside them," Nick said. "It was so quiet and you could really sense things working together."

By mid-November, they had reached San Francisco, where they stayed with friends for a week and a half.

During their stay they scoped out TrannyFest, a week-long festival of panel discussions, films and entertainment focusing on trans-related issues. Their highlights included Mirrha Soleil-Ross, "a pregnant transsexual sex-worker from Quebec."

photo provided

Nick Matte and Konnor Brett didn't make it to Mexico on their epic quest, but they learned a lot about themselves and about the social and geographical terrain of California.

"She was born a man, transitioned to a woman, and is a sex worker," Konnor explained. "She's displaying herself as a pregnant woman, which is impossible."

Nick added this was done "in order to challenge ideas about what kind of a woman could have children." During a performance, Soleil-Ross posed as a feminist academic and lectured tongue-in-cheek about how female sex workers could "save themselves" through her advice.

"She was excellent," Konnor said.

Besides providing social commentary, the festival provided an important space for transgendered people to meet their basic needs, as well as celebrate, Nick said.

"There aren't many places where transgendered culture has developed to the point where we can celebrate," Nick said. "It was totally inspirational to just be yourself in the world, which is often the hardest thing for transgendered people."

When they left San Francisco the weather soon took a turn for the worse and both their money and luck began to run out.

One afternoon in Santa Cruz they were turned away from a hostel and left on the roadside with a storm approaching. They kept going, riding 115 kilometers that day, partly in the dark.

"You could hear a rockslide on our left, waves crashing on the right and high-speed traffic all around us," Nick said. "And that's when we started to realize we could just go home."

They soon decided to catch a train back, arriving in Victoria on Nov. 28.

The trip left them with many memories, new friends and a newfound appreciation of their own capabilities.

"This trip really opened my eyes," said Konnor, who lost 20 pounds during the tour. "All I need is food and shelter."

"And the power of your body," Nick added.

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QUEER BRIEFS

Anti-gay protesters in Salt Lake City

compiled by Suzanne Beaubien

Canadian athletes can expect to meet more than fans over the next two weeks in Salt Lake City.

Mormon leaders called for a non-invasive welcome to Salt Lake City visitors during the winter games but conservative protesters have taken to the streets.

Protesting homosexuals, abortion and contraceptives, they quietly demonstrated last Friday in downtown Salt Lake City before the Olympic opening ceremony. Onlookers shouted at the protesters who carried signs denouncing gays and lesbians.

Later that day several anti-abortion protesters demonstrated against the practice of distributing condoms to athletes at the Salt Lake Organizing Committee Headquarters.

Several members of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) kept a close watch on protester activity and reported it to be "peaceful but passionate."

During the games, people wishing to protest require permits and must stay within the designated zones near Olympic venues.

Study supports gay adoption

compiled by Suzanne Beaubien

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a new policy statement recommending adoption rights be extended to same-sex parents, based on two decades of research.

The study was published in latest issue of the scientific journal *Pediatrics* and suggested there are no risks related to growing up in a family with one or more gay parents.

Dr. Jane Foy, a North Carolina pediatrician who helped draft the academy's policy, said the current American system is unsustainable.

The study found no differences in the gender identity, social roles or sexual orientation of adults who had a divorced homosexual parent, compared with those who had divorced heterosexual parents.

Also none of the more than 300 children raised by lesbian mothers studied have shown evidence of gender identity confusion or cross-gender behaviour.

While the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) has yet to review the issue of homosexual parenting, Dr. Sarah Shea, director of the CPS said the American Academy of Pediatrics should be commended for tackling such a controversial issue.

While the legal landscape for gays and lesbians in Canada is more permissive than in the U.S., not all provinces have same-sex adoption rights set in law.

Lamm speaks on queer activism

by Alison Lee

I first heard of Nomy Lamm about six years ago when a friend of mine handed me a small, photocopied zine called *I'm So Fucking Beautiful*, Nomy's call to arms resisting the overwhelmingly negative attitudes towards fat people in our society.

While faced with a world of diet tips, weight-loss surgery and self-loathing, Nomy insisted on self-love and not just acceptance, but celebration of all kinds of bodies, and soon I did too. Nomy has been published in *Listen Up, Body Outlaws, Sex and Single Girls* (all Seal Press), as well as magazines including *Ms.* and *Seventeen*. She co-wrote the rock opera *The Transfused* with local Olympia band The Need, released the cd *Anthem* (on Talent Show Records) and has toured all over the US and Canada. I was lucky enough to talk to the self-described "badass fatass Jew dyke amputee" while gearing up for her presentation of "Gender Apocalypse: An end of finAlities" at the University of Victoria.

Me: Art and activism seem very interconnected in your life. What made you choose performance art as one of the mediums for your activism?

Nomy: Because its what I'm good at . . . I recognize a lot of different kinds of activism, like I think that direct action is really important, I think education in general is really important. For me . . . I'm good at talking to people, I'm good at standing in front of groups of people, I'm good at singing, so performing is where my talents are . . . so that's just what has naturally come to me and I think since I was really young, for lots of different reasons, justice has been a very important theme in my life and feeling like there was something really wrong with the way things were, and at least I could contribute my voice, try and talk about it and change it. And I think as far as being involved in artistic and activist communities . . . I was politicized through riot grrrl basically, which was all about young girls that didn't necessarily have much of a voice in the world, creating space and talking about the fucked-up harsh realities that we live in, things that don't get talked about in a way that actually comes from us.

Me: You mentioned community . . . what communities do you see yourself a part of? What do you see as the roles that your communities play in informing your art and activism?

Nomy: Well, I would say I'm involved in a lot of different communities, and that is from having been involved in a lot of different types of activism, from the queer community, and when I was younger the riot grrrl community which was a big ol' network, and the anarchist community, and I'm Jewish too, and these kind of extend themselves all over the world because they are communities that have a lot of connections.

I think that we need a place in the world to be recognized and feel like we actually exist and are a part of something, and I know that I never felt that way, for example, in school, or in sports or in jobs or these things that corporate media tell us are the places where we are supposed to find community. I think in general all the work that I do would have been really different if I'd had to do it all in isolation . . . other people can do that, but for me I really needed that support and that recognition I guess, in terms of being a human being and having my experiences be represented as valid in the world.

Me: Are you lucky enough to make a living off of your art?

Nomy: I pretty much manage to live off my art, and that's from going to colleges, and I edit the local co-op news (in Olympia), and then freelance writing. I wouldn't be able to do this work if I had to work a full time job . . . that's just the reality of the situation. When I have two weeks off, and I'm just reading and checking my email, and having conversations with my friends, that is part of my work because everything I'm doing goes back into what I create, so I need that time, in need to feel like my life is one whole thing and not divided up into work and recreation. I think that it sucks for anyone to have to work full time. I hope one day we live in a world where we can do things that we love and that we can consider farming to be art, cooking to be art, and building things, and all the things that people are good at and don't get recognized in that way, and art just looked at as production, that everyone should be able to support themselves doing what they love, and I feel really lucky that I can.

photo provided

Me: Tell me about "Gender Apocalypse."

Nomy: "Gender Apocalypse" is really a story about my history with gender, and a lot about the community that I live in, and feminism and trans politics and the complications of gender that we are experiencing right now. The whole frame of the presentation is that the breakdown and de-essentialization of gender is an important step in human evolution because it's one more way of taking us out of the roles that we are expected to be playing in the world, and to figure out who we actually are, and all the things we are showing to the world are expressions, and not essential identities.

Nomy will be at UVic on Tuesday, Feb. 26. at the Grad Lounge. Doors at 8:00 p.m. Show at 8:30 p.m. Tickets $3.00.

Pink elegance on parade

by Christopher Hooper

Who doesn't love a parade? Everyone who attends participates, whether in the procession or from the sidelines.

At its heart, a parade is a display and celebration of community pride. Of more than 200 Pride festivals worldwide, one is held annually in Victoria.

This year will mark the eighth annual Pride Week Celebration, which takes place in the first week of July.

Coordinated by the Victoria Pride Society, it is supported by various queer and queer-friendly groups, businesses and media throughout the city.

Before it became a full week of activities, the celebration began as a day-long picnic. Since then it has steadily grown with the addition of dances, pageants, sports and a parade.

"It's [Pride Week] a celebration of queer people, not any one particular group", said April Grant, president of the Victoria Pride Society.

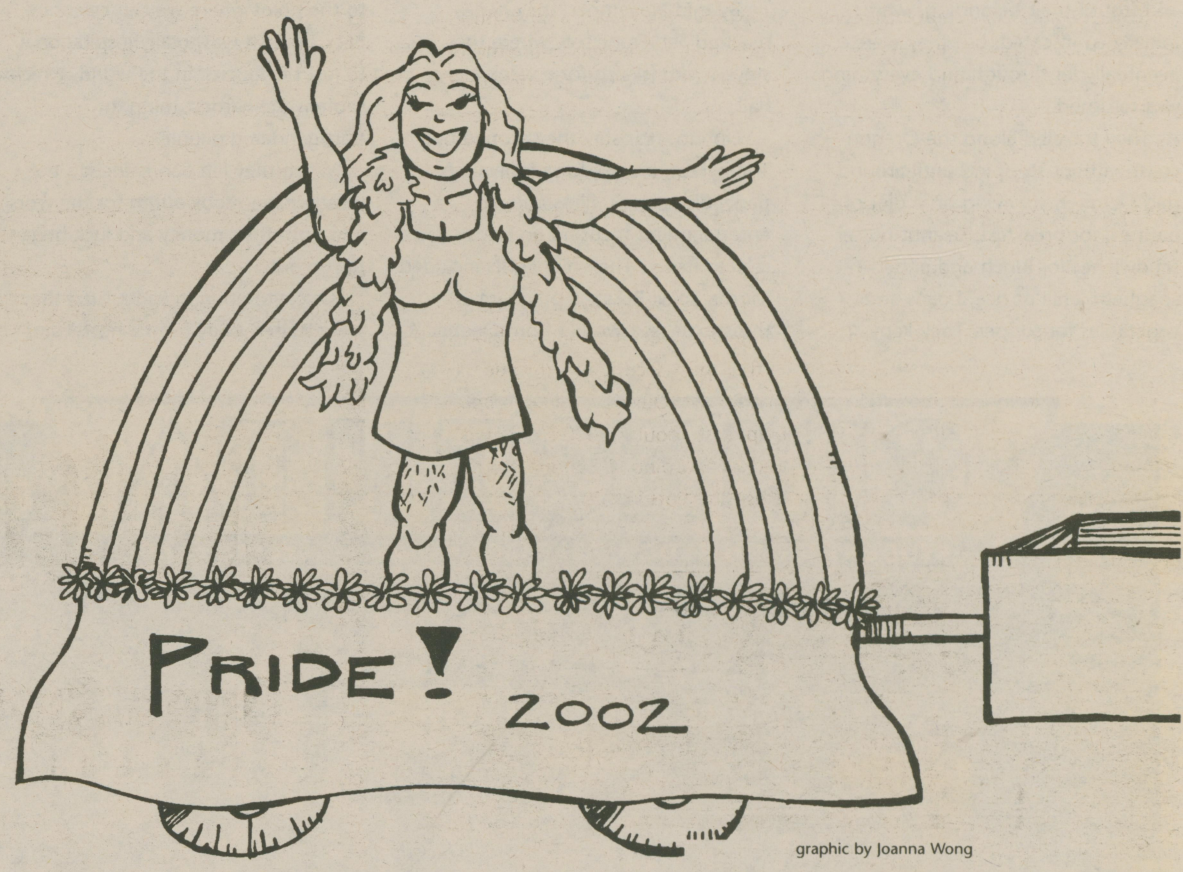
The parade might not be as big as it is in some other cities, like Vancouver, but last year there were 30 floats and over 3,000 people. The parade stretched along the front of the legislature, across the Empress's lawn and up a few city blocks.

This summer's parade is expected to have more floats and draw even more spectators. Still, the celebration can be controversial. Participant or spectator nudity may revoke parade's permit, but such incidents are usually minor.

Like any other organized event of its size, Pride Week needs volunteers.

"It can be a very empowering experience to be part of Pride," said Grant.

Those interested, contact Grant at 385-3099.



graphic by Joanna Wong

Though pride festivities are still a few months away, here are some important dates to mark on your calendar:

June 30 – Miss Gay Vancouver Island Pageant
Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the prettiest Queen in BJ's.

July 1 – Pride Ball (a.k.a. Drag Ball)
Guys and gals switch "uniforms" then see who can score the most.

July 6 – Pride Dance
All ages, all genders, no alcohol.

July 7 – Pride Parade
Along Government from Pandora, in front of the Legislature, ending with a picnic at Fisherman's Wharf Park.

Police tell Campbell campers to leave the lawn

by Kevin Groves

The Victoria activists camped out on the provincial government's doorstep since Feb. 6 may be forced off the legislature lawns.

Nearly 40 members of "Camp Campbell" woke up Feb. 12 to a Victoria Police officer threatening to remove them. The campers stayed.

"We called everyone and their dog and there's now lots of media here," said camp member Shane Calder. "Now we're just waiting to see if the police are going to make a move."

Calder added he doesn't know if the campers will be forcibly removed. The Crown filed for an enforcement order to allow police to use force to remove the camp. The court adjourned before granting the order on Feb. 13 so the situation is at a standstill. In the meantime campers filed court papers in response to the enforcement order, hoping to stop the Crown from granting it.

Some campers believe confrontation with police and security is imminent.

"Now that the media are here they're hanging around, which is making me nervous because they may know something I don't," said camp member and UVic student Mary Conquest. "This could be an incentive for the cops to close this down, so I'm worried there could be arrests."

It is illegal to camp on the legislature lawn and if arrested, campers could face fines of $2000.

Morgan Stewart, a UVic student at the camp, said he believes the camp will be allowed to stay on the lawns until Feb. 23.

"I don't think the police will make a move until they're told to by a judge, and it looks like that's not going to happen yet," he said. "I hope more people can come down here over the next few days."

Commissionaires at the legislature said they did not know if the campers would be removed. A spokesperson for Victoria Police added there are no firm plans to remove the campers but said that eventually they will have to go.

Passersby who stopped to stare at the campers were sympathetic to their goal to draw attention to the provincial government's deep cuts to social programs in B.C.

"This is what happens when you don't have an official opposition in the legislature," said Richard, who asked that his last name not be used. "They have a right to protest legally."

Campers said they were there to draw attention to a broad range of issues, not just deregulated tuition.

"A lot of people here don't have a home and live on a street, so they're on the front lines and are going to suffer the most," Conquest said. "Lots of people have asked us if this will be effective and we don't know but we've got to try."

The campers plan to stay on the lawn until the planned general strike and rally on Feb. 23.

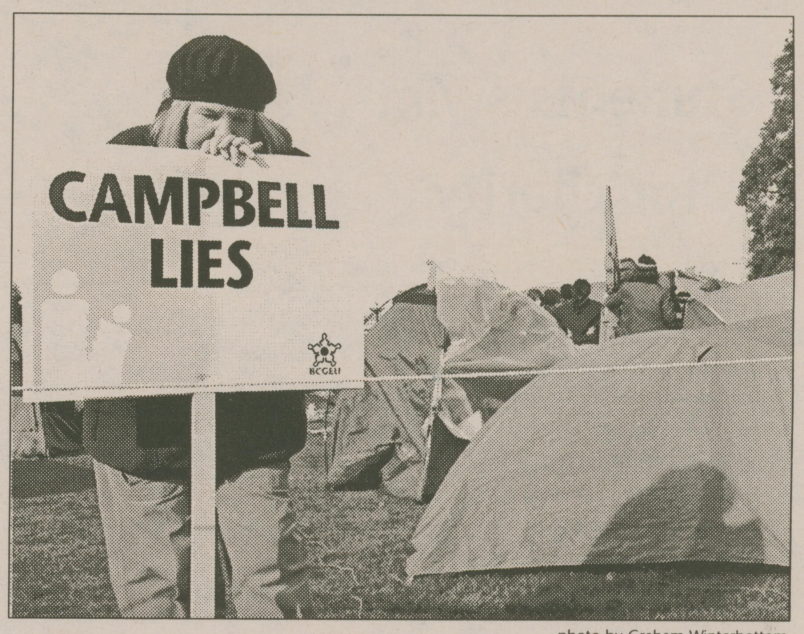


photo by Graham Winterbottom

An unidentified woman leans on a placard at the edge of Camp Campbell.

A dozen Simon Fraser University students occupied Premier Gordon Campbell's Vancouver constituency office Feb 12. The students demanded that Campbell reverse the decision to deregulate tuition.

The group said Campbell has broken an election promise to protect post-secondary education and the students are there to send him a message. The group brought 5,000 signed postcards calling for tuition fees to be frozen. The students are being denied access to water and washroom facilities but said they are prepared to stay until they can meet the premier.

Tuition freeze defrosts in B.C.

by Sarah MacNeill Morrison and Suzanne Beaubien

BRITISH COLUMBIA (CUP) – The B.C. government announced Monday it will no longer regulate college and university tuition fees, putting an end to a six-year legislated fee freeze and giving universities authority to increase fees to any level they wish.

The province's Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond acknowledged that most students wanted the government to keep fees frozen but said doing so was "not realistic."

"We need to be concerned about the long-term future and the issues around access for students in this province and that's what motivated our decision," Bond said.

She said that, without the discretion to raise fees themselves, the province's institutions would not be able to meet the demand for increased student access.

But Summer McFadyen, B.C. chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), said the ministry is shirking its duty to provide support for education.

"I think students are outraged, and it's shocking what the government has done," she said. "There's no other way to view the increase but as a direct attack on people from regular families."

McFadyen said the deregulation will result in a "historical" increase in tuition fees, drop outs and young people who won't consider a university education.

She was one of eight people who met with Bond last Wednesday before the February 6 Day of Action to try to convince the minister to keep the freeze.

McFadyen said no new information was given to them at the meeting and the CFS only heard about the tuition defreeze from the media late Monday afternoon.

Although student groups had predicted the government would allow institutions to raise fees, most said they were stunned by yesterday's announcement.

"We firmly believe the government should play a regulatory role in education," said Erfan Kazemi, president of the student association at the University of British Columbia. "I'm disappointed and alarmed that there's no regulation."

UBC's student union is preparing for the implementation of differential tuition, which may raise both law and medical student's fees by $10,000.

McFadyen said differential tuition will make education a luxury.

She cited the 60 per cent of students on financial assistance in Bond's Prince George riding.

"She's [Bond] completely out of touch," said McFadyen.

But Bond maintains the increase will benefit post-secondary education in the province.

"Clearly most students would have liked to maintain the freeze forever. But that's not realistic," said Bond.

Brian Sullivan, UBC's vice-president, said his university is planning to increase fees for undergraduate programs to the national average of $3,580 over the next three years. Undergraduate students currently pay an average of $2,181.

A University of Victoria pre-budget report that was leaked to the media last week showed officials are planning to double fees over the next several years.

Bond said the province will continue to provide assistance through projects such as the student loans program.

"It's a challenge for students, but we believe that students should invest in their post-secondary education," said Bond. "Our government already helps just about 70,000 students a year and we're going to continue to help those students in need."

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News Briefs

Students swim for charity

by Brooke Taylor

photo by Vanessa van de Velde

Crazy people, some of whom were naked, jump into the chilly ocean at Cadboro Bay for a good cause.

On Feb. 9, 34 UVic students braved the chilly waters of Cadboro Bay for the third annual Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS) swim.

The swim is a UVic inter-faculty competition to raise food for the Mustard Seed Food Bank.

Nyssa Temmel, co-chair of BUGS, said the swim was a success and it raised over three large boxes of food for the Mustard Seed Food Bank.

Engineering students, who painted themselves blue, turned out in large numbers to join the Biology students.

Leif Parisien, who hopes to study engineering at UVic in a few years, painted himself blue and supported the engineering faculty. "It was freezing, but a lot of fun," he said. "I'll be back next year."

After the swim everyone met at Felicitas for the awards ceremony.

Parisien liked the idea of raising food for the Mustard Seed and suggested that the UVic food bank be involved in the future, to help struggling students.

Approximately 50 people, including UVic Board of Governors member Trudi Brown, came down to show their support.

Temmel said BUGS organized the swim in February because it is a good time to get students involved.

"This is a slow time for the food banks around town," said Temmel. "It's good to give back to our community," she added.

Brent Palmer, president of the Provincial Food Bank Association, said the Mustard Seed is interested in working with the UVSS food bank, so busy students would not have to go off-campus to get food.

"UVic has collected significant food donations in previous years, which we certainly appreciate," said Palmer who also works at the Mustard Seed.

"Many students use the food bank's services, more so in the last couple years," said Palmer. The Mustard Seed goes through 60-80 thousand pounds of food per month, or two million dollars worth of food per year.

Palmer is concerned that the expected tuition increases will lead to an increased number of students requiring food bank donations to help subsidize their food budgets.

"Since the Liberals have come to power, I hear that visits to the food banks are up 14 per cent, so our food donation will be welcomed," said Temmel.

T-shirts were awarded to one grad student and eight undergrads who went in naked.

Cyborg visits UVic

by Kelsey Dundon

Stelarc, the Australian artist-turned-cyborg, visited Uvic as part of the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival, Feb. 9.

The crowd was a mix of academics, art students and people curious about the man who sports three arms.

"I didn't know anything about him except what I saw on a body-modification website," said Mike Snider, a second-year Uvic student who attended the lecture.

Stelarc used graphic photos, video clips, overhead projectors and slides to recap his 30 years as a performance artist.

Some pictures, like those of his "suspensions," in which he pierces his skin to suspend himself from bridges or ceilings, caused pained expressions from the audience.

But Stelarc is accustomed to this kind of reaction to his work. "Some of my closest friends have turned away from my performances," he said.

Video images of the insertion of his stomach sculpture, in which a camera followed the sculpture down his throat into his stomach, invoked similar audience responses.

Stelarc said the goal of his work is not simply to have a painful experience.

He compared his experiences to pregnancy.

"Pain eventuates but that is not the goal of getting pregnant," he said.

Then what is the point of subjecting his body to painful practices?

It stems from the desire to explore the physical architecture of the body, not from a loathing of it, Stelarc explained.

While he insists he is not a philosopher, his language indicates he has a complex philosophy of the body. When explaining pictures of his suspensions, Stelarc said "the body is shown beside the sea," and does not refer to himself in the first-person.

"The problem with language is that it seduces us into thinking that the phrase 'I' means much more than 'this,'" he said.

Stelarc also avoids using the word "mind" because it implies an inner quality like a self or a soul, an idea which he does not agree with.

Stelarc's bodily additions are very different from normal prostheses.

"They are not the result of a lack," he said. "But the result of a desire for excess."

Stelarc experimented with a third arm and is planning to complete a third ear as well. The arm is heavy and he only wears it for performances. The ear, on the other hand, will be a permanent implant, perhaps on his forearm.

Stelarc uses neither meditation or anesthetics to ease the physical pain in any of his performances.

"I was very much conscious before, during and after," he said.

For many audience members, it was difficult to associate the jovial man on stage with the serious man posed in painful positions in the photo displays.

"He seemed like a regular guy," said Snider. "A regular, really intelligent guy."

Open mic staged dancers and poets

by Shana Heiser

About 40 women and men listened to songs and poetry about overcoming eating disorders at Solstice Cafe on Feb. 7. Belly dancers shook their bodies to loud "woos" from the crowd.

The open microphone evening began with "No Woman, No Cry" played by event organizer Kara Parkhurst, a UVic women's studies student completing her practicum at B.C. Eating Disorders Association (BCEDA).

Association practicum student Stephanie Willett passed around sheets of paper for the audience to write their responses to "Sizeism: what do you think it means?"

"Self-absorption is demanded from the masses," Willett read from a poem by Diana Mackin. "Every body has its beauty, its unique and graceful natural form. If you can't yet see your beauty, then simply know that others do."

Lisa, a woman wearing a bright red shirt, dramatically read from her short story "Whale Woman."

"As she is on her boat, two fishermen yell, 'Orca, orcaaa,' they call. 'They're looking at me.' She turns their ridicules into woman of the sea, big, fat, wild thing – untameable," she read.

Three belly dancers entertained the crowd next, stripping down to their sequined bras and low-slung noisy skirts. As they waved scarves wildly, they sent off a different message of pride in their bodies.

Tara, a quiet woman in a baggy white shirt, moved the audience with her truthful account of her eating disorder's control over her and an a capella song.

"I took care of a lot of my friends in high school with eating disorders, thinking I was okay eating my steamed rice and working out like a maniac," Tara said.

The last participant, LeAnne, warned teenagers yet to follow the path to eating disorders.

"Young ones, you are the next ones, though you try hard, you may follow," she said.

No more fish farms, say B.C. environmentalists

by Stephen Hui

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) – Environmentalists in B.C. are crying foul over the provincial government's decision to lift its moratorium on new salmon farms.

Representatives of environmental organizations on British Columbia's Salmon Aquaculture Implementation Advisory Committee are outraged they were kept in the dark about the decision until just before it was made public on Jan. 31.

Four have resigned in protest, including the representative of the B.C. Aboriginal Fisheries Commission.

According to Laurie MacBride, executive director of environmental group Georgia Strait Alliance, there is mounting scientific evidence that fish farming results in irreparable degradation to the marine environment.

Lynn Hunter, an aquaculture specialist with the David Suzuki Foundation, says pollution from net pens, containing excess feces and feed, which are rich in drugs and dyes, is toxic to life on the sea floor.

"We've sent a diver under these farms," said Hunter. "It's like a moonscape; there's nothing living down there."

continued on page 7

on the spot

Is it necessary for the Martlet to have a special queer issue?

compiled by David Ball and John Thompson

Tory Steele
1st year general studies

Aren't there articles about homosexuality in the Martlet all the time? Do I think there should be a queer issue? Why not?

Lindsay Hallet
5th year anthropology

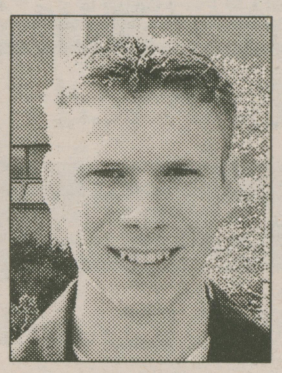
Yeah, why not? Maybe through an issue like that you can reach more people. It shouldn't have to be a special issue, though.

Greg Jensen
4th year psychology

Why not? Everybody's got to be equal in the world. I fully support anybody's beliefs and desires to do whatever they want to do.

Lisa Ambus
Polis Project

Sure, why not? Love takes all shapes and forms. It's a contentious issue, so it's good to highlight it. Queer relationships are also love relationships.



Damon Gauthier
2nd year social sciences

It's alright with me. I wouldn't care either way. I probably wouldn't read it in depth.

Billy Walker
3rd year business

I don't know. It depends on how many people it represents. I don't see why not. It's funded by the students, right? So you want to make sure you represent the people who pay for it.

Come vote you twits – student elections as spectator sport

by John Thompson

Be sure to shake off your hangovers after reading-break, and prepare for a blitzkrieg of leaflets, cheesy campaign slogans and political catfighting.

Yup, student elections are coming soon. Traditionally, voter turnout during elections is miserably low. I'm not sure why. Student politics can quickly become vicious, dirty and underhanded. It's a great spectator sport. Remember that these people are making decisions that will affect you and your life on campus. So rather than avoiding eye-contact with the politicos-to-be maurading campus, here are some suggestions.

• **Talk to candidates.** First try talking with candidates who are pounding the pavement. Don't let them throw too many leaflets your way: Instead, ask some probing questions. What new ideas does the candidate have? What are their motivations (and political affiliations)? What do they think of rival candidates? And, most importantly, why should you vote for them?

• **Pay attention to independents.** Their campaigns may be less slick but their ideas might be fresh compared to existing political cliques.

• **Attend the All Candidates Forums.** Last year, one candidate said in joking these were given their name "because only the candidates attend." Too bad, because you can learn a lot by how candidates speak and respond to questions on the spot, rather than judging them solely on their election platforms. Again, ask some hard questions and make them sweat a little.

> Student politics can quickly become vicious, dirty and underhanded. It's a great spectator sport.

Remember, the people elected will be at the helm of the student society next year. Give it some thought before you cast your ballot. Besides being a form of entertainment in their own right, student elections are a chance to exercise democracy on an extremely local level. If you're upset with student representatives, visit their offices and give them an earful. But if you didn't bother voting, you won't be in much of a position to complain.

Electoral Chief resigns

by John Thompson

With student elections just around the corner, electoral chief Stephanie Gray was forced to resign last Wednesday.

Gray said she was sick with mononucleosis for much of last year and was recently hospitalized because of an infection.

Besides having to quit her jobs, Gray also had to drop out of school because of her health.

"I fainted and everything, and I felt it was too much," she said.

Mononucleosis, commonly called mono, is a debilitating infection that can last up to a year.

Of the four electoral officers, Gray was the only one who had previous experience working on student elections.

Sara Beaman will replace her as electoral chief and Danica Jeffery has been hired as the new deputy.

"I think they'll be okay," Gray said.

Beaman said the extra responsibility would be shared between herself and the deputies.

"We're all treating each other as equals," she said. "The three of us are going to put our heads together and run it as smoothly as possible."

Nominations for the student elections close on Feb. 18 and the campaign period begins after reading break, on Feb. 25.

Overview

• The Board of Directors (BOD) is responsible for allocating the student society's budget, organizing campaigns, advocating for students and maintaining SUB services.

• The BOD is not a student government – it has no legislative power over its electorate. Members of the BOD are mandated to further the interests of the society and be responsible to its student membership.

• All BOD meetings are open to the public, and must be held twice a month. They are usually held on Monday evenings in the SUB Upper Lounge. Only board members may vote. The UVSS also holds two general meetings every year, where students have both speaking and voting rights.

• Elections for the BOD are held every year and the newly elected members begin their term on May 1.

BOD Breakdown

There are 19 positions on the board: four executives, 11 directors at large and four constituency representatives. All BOD members hold office for one year.

Executive (4) – All executive positions are paid, full-time roles. Their offices are in the Resource Centre, SUB B103.

Chair – As the UVSS spokesperson, the Chair is expected to liaise with the university administration, different levels of government and the CFS. They also regularly chair BOD meetings and sit on the executive committee of the graduation class.

Academics – Chairs the Course Union Council and acts as liaison with the Ombudsperson's office, the Board of Governors and student members of the Senate. Also responsible for the society's communications and advertising, and for coordinating any academic events.

Finance – All financial records, policies, contracts and statements are the Finance director's responsibility, as well as the society's annual budget. Also expected to liaise between SUB staff and the BOD, with the director of Services.

Services – Chairs the Clubs Council, and is chief liaison between SUB staff and members of the society. Also responsible for organizing student orientation, exchange and charity programs, and other non-academic programs. With the director of Finances, the director of Services is expected to liaise between SUB staff and the BOD.

Directors at Large (11) – Responsible for assisting, as well as scrutinizing, the executive. They are expected to help coordinate UVSS campaigns and sit on at least two UVSS committees.

Constituency Groups (4) – The Women's Center, the Pride Collective, the Society for Students with a Disability (SSD) and the Native Student Union (NSU) each elect one member as BOD constituency representatives.

Source: EJ Davis, deputy electoral officer

continued from page 6

Hunter also asserts fish escaping from these farms are a serious problem.

About 80 per cent of the fish farms in B.C.'s coastal waters rear Atlantic salmon, an exotic species. Ecologists rate the introduction of exotic species as the top cause of species extinction.

Sergio Paone, a representative from the Friends of Clayoquot Sound maintains that precautionary principles should be practiced, rather than the current paradigm of risk management.

Greenpeace Canada campaigner Catherine Stewart said predator control permits issued to fish farms by the Department of Fisheries has resulted in operators shooting bears, otters, sea lions and seals.

As well, she noted acoustic harassment devices emitting high-decibel sound waves to repel predators has affected the feeding and migratory patterns of whales in the Broughton Archipelago, where there is a high concentration of salmon farms.

The removal of the ban will take effect April 30.

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EDITORIAL

Queer issues still fall below the radar

We wish we didn't need to do a queer issue.

At the beginning of each publishing year the Martlet holds its Annual General Meeting and debates the merits of the special issues. Inevitably the point is raised that, as an alternative newspaper, we should embrace alternative views, including queer views, in each issue and not concentrate them in one. As a community paper we reflect the views and voices of our community, and there is a strong and vocal queer community on this campus.

So why do we have a queer issue at all?

As much as we would like to believe that we do a good job here at *the Martlet* of including queer issues we have only run a handful of articles with queer content. Most of these were in the gender issue in November. And although there is a strong and active queer contingent on UVic's campus we still manage to leave these voices out.

Why?

It is not because we intentionally silence queer voices, or that we actively think "Oh the PRIDE collective is doing such and such, let's not cover it." No. The problem is that we at *the Martlet* and we in general fail to think and see through a queer lens or to consider queerness as something relevant to all of us everyday.

We probably have not even noticed the impact of the BC Liberals Pharmacare cuts to those transitioning from Female to Male. Testosterone was one of the drugs previously covered that users now have to pay for. We probably have not considered the impact of tuition hikes and cuts to welfare on queer mothers co-parenting, where these queer women and their children suffer because both are women and women still earn less than men.

Why do these things fall through the cracks? Why do we not cover them even in the alternative media?

Because we live in a heterosexist society. What does this mean? It does not mean that people are inherently homophobic, or that queers are an openly despised minority.

Heterosexuality is both an institution and a fundamental organizing principle of western culture. Heterosexuality is powerful because it is not questioned. We never ask: Why are you straight? How long have you known you're straight? Have you always been straight or did something happen during your childhood that made you that way? How did people react when you came out as straight?

Heterosexuality is the taken-for-granted norm against which everything else is different, abnormal, other.

These sentiments may seem cliché. Of course we know that heterosexuality is a pervasive ideology that permeates all levels of our lives and that to leave this ideology unquestioned is problematic. Don't we?

But don't we wonder why most of the characters in most of the books we read in English class are straight? Why high school sex ed classes take as their beginning point presumed heterosexuality? Why all of the characters on mainstream tv are straight or, if not, are somehow tokenized as "the gay character?" Why most of the Valentine cards in our local neighbourhood pharmacies are explicitly or implicitly either "from him to her" or "her to him."

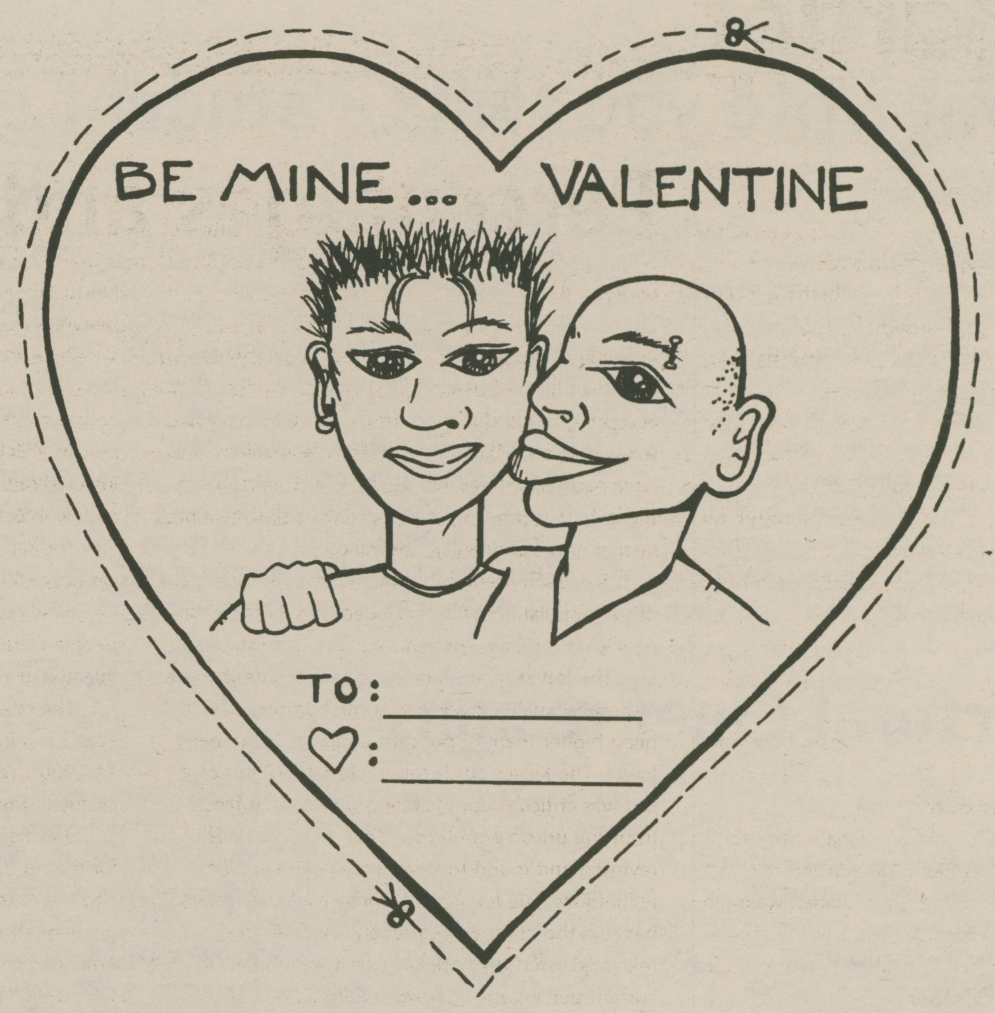
We wish we didn't need to do a queer issue.

But to move beyond the need for a queer issue we at *the Martlet* and we in general must shift our gazes. We must ask how heterosexism effects all of us, gay, straight and everyone in between. We must ask how we benefit from the institution of heterosexuality and how we are oppressed by it. All of us.

When we can do these things and think in these ways we will no longer need a queer issue. Until then we need to make space for queer voices and for now, this is it.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**



DIALOGUE

A conversation on race and sexuality

by Rita Kozma and Kyla Sorensen

This is an email conversation sent between Victoria and Ottawa about relating to our sexual, racial and gender identities.

Please be aware: this is our everyday-talk, please refrain from casting the authors' 'voices' in a frozen moment in time. If we feel like it, or need to, we may very well change our minds.

Rita: What troubles are you causing? Some good shit I hope! I found a "Queer Women of Colour" group and there's major sexual tension at work, WITH A MAN!

What am I doing being attracted to boys anyway? April says, "you're a dyke who appreciates beautiful people."

I said, "what's the difference between that and I'm bi?" These labels just don't fit, too dualistic, conversation sound familiar? I just hate telling guys that I'm bi because then they're like, "ooh, maybe I can get a threesome." The bi thing is hard, and I don't want to give the impression that I'm equally into both, because I'm not.

April tells me to just say: "I'm bi, and I'm not attracted to straight men who fantasize about bisexual girls." Funny, eh? Fuck labels, ahh! Then with straight girls, it's another story. You don't wanna tell unless you know they're cool. What if they think you want them, it's like "No girlfriend, I don't go for straight girls who have no interest in me, not my thing." It's so obvious when they gush about guys just to make sure that you know they're sooo heterosexual. It's like, oh well, I am sooo queer, hah!

Oh, I have some nice news . . . there's this woman, oh my, she is beeyootifull!!! She sends sparks and warm tingles up and down me. Gotta maintain my composure (yeah right!), and be cool, otherwise I'll be disappointed.

What's up with you? I miss you lots! Love, Rita

Kyla: Ah, the labels. How about: "I'm a dyke, bisexual, a lesbian, whatever. Basically into cool people who rock my world!" Or: "It's all about love in context." (Familiar?)

Once again, my love life has fizzled into nothing. Why is it so hard to start a relationship with women? That stereotype of dykes always jumping in and out of long-term monogamous relationships is so ridiculous. I haven't been in a relationship for three years now.

Anyway, I just found a book: *Halfbreed* by Maria Campbell. It's all about growing up Red River Métis. I've never found a book like this before. I decided to get my Métis card now because I feel more comfortable accessing Métis programs. I think a lot about being Métis with white skin and growing up with my white mom. This has helped in unpacking racism and looking at oppression and relationships of dominance. However I've been hesitant to explore parts of who I am, my history, my ancestors history and so on. I no longer want to deny myself this learning.

Recently I was eating out and my friends kept talking about us all being white trash. This especially bugs me since some of them know that I'm Métis. It seemed like no one wanted to hear me. I wonder why there's resistance to seeing me as a Métis queer woman? Does my white skin rule out my ancestral heritage and erase my family? Is it easier for white-Euro folk to pretend that I'm the same as them, especially because I'm not visibly of Colour?

I have the same label frustration. I don't want to say I'm a dyke because this can equate gender with sex. "Bisexual dyke" might be the best label I've found yet. Labels, argh, they're useful because it's like, there is a name for "what/who" I am, but then these words don't fully describe me. I don't want to be boxed in by categories. I also come out as a Red River Métis woman. I'm so fuckin' tired of explaining my identity to people who never have to explain their own. Oh, I wish I could see you and give you a huge hug. Love ya lots, Kyla

Rita: I can relate to what you're saying. Being light skinned and Lebanese Christian, white-Euro people sometimes assume that I'm "like them" and I suppose parts of me are. But at the same time, there are parts of me that are rejected, belittled or ridiculed by people. Sometimes it's easier to try to blend in especially when you have some of the status points that get you in. Yet I will never fully fit in and I'm kidding myself if I believed otherwise. It's a constant struggle to not get completely assimilated. It's hard to resist assimilation when parts of you get ridiculed, belittled or erased by others. It becomes difficult to want to associate with aspects of yourself, or to know where to begin or end. I am proud of you for having the strength to go forth and gain a deeper understanding of you.

I think that in English dominant culture we are taught that "sameness" and "agreement" are superior. As for the "white trash" people, that's part of how whiteness operates; by either highlighting difference as inferior or trying to assimilate it, or to reject it. At which point, I figure, I'm not having this conversation. Sometimes, it's not worth it. They're not even listening anyway, and I have to save my energy for the more intelligent souls out there, and for the more important struggles. You know what, they're missing out. I myself am tired of explaining my identity, so when I don't feel like it, I don't do it. And when I don't engage, people know that it's intentional and hopefully it makes them think. Oh yeah, "coming out" as Métis. I think I know what you mean, I never feel like that, it's more like I'm confirming or correcting where people thought "I might be from."

Kyla: Thanks Rita. Your words inspire me and help me along whatever paths I take. Working out the complexities of identity locations and how to make sense of one's own identity can be both exhilarating and exhausting all at once. Love ya, Kyla

[2001/2002]
Martlet
UVIC'S STUDENT PAPER

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STUDENT VOICE

Percentages and the blood debate

by Ryan Barry

Recently there has been much discussion about Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and their policy of not accepting blood donations from men who have had sex with men (MSM) since 1977, or Canadians who have had sex with MSMs since 1977. Unfortunately, the debate has been peppered with misinformation, factual errors and faulty reasoning.

It has been alleged that the figure of five per cent of the population being excluded by CBS's screening policies is too low. There have been many studies over the last several years trying to estimate the rate of homosexuality in society. Some numbers have been higher than 10 per cent and some have been lower. The Kinsey study found close to 10 per cent but was criticized for including too many subjects from the prison population. Then the study was revisited and found to have reasonable sampling techniques. Sue Johansen (*Sunday Night Sex Show*) has said the number is probably lower. A press release crossed my desk last year stating that the current percentage of women admitting to homosexual relationships was 1.5 per cent and for men, three per cent. With care, I chose five per cent as a high-ball estimate of the population which would include practicing gay men, bisexual men and women who have had sex with either. Andrea Peneycad and Ayla Lepine ("Pride response to CBS screenings," Feb. 7, 2002) incorrectly state that "all bisexual men, men who are questioning their sexuality, and many bisexual women" would be barred from donating blood. The only bisexual or questioning men excluded by the screening process would be ones who in fact have had sexual relations with a man, which would be less than the total since not everyone has crossed that line and had homosexual relations. Further, most bisexual women will have relations with heterosexual men since heterosexual men represent the greatest proportion in the population. It is unreasonable to expect that bisexual women are having sex mostly with gay or bisexually practicing men. Most of this discussion is irrelevant since a figure of five per cent or even seven per cent doesn't significantly effect the outcome of the following estimates (see below).

Peneycad and Lepine go further: "Individuals presently at the highest risk of contracting AIDS in North America are straight, African-American women between the ages of 16 and 25." This is wrong. The statistic Peneycad and Lepine are misinterpreting is the rate of increase in infection. For example, consider a population of a million people with one person afflicted in Year 1; Year 2 has two people infected (an increase of one) and Year 3 sees 12 people infected (an increase of 10).

· The rate of increase in infection is 1000 per cent yet only 10 in a million were infected in Year 3.

· Now consider a second population of a million people with 100,000 infected in Year 1; 200,000 infected in Year 2 and 310,000 infected in Year 3.

· The rate of increase in infection from Year 2 to Year 3 is only 10 per cent (100,000 compared with 110,000). Yet the greater afflicted population is clearly in the second million.

It has been posited that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) and the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) opinions should matter. The NAACP and ACLU are American organizations that have no status in Canada. Canada has a tissue-gift act that forbids Canadians from selling their blood or tissues or making any gain from donating or selling their tissues, which is not true in the States. The epidemiology of HIV is substantially different in the US compared with Canada, as is the donation system. Ignoring this, the NAACP is unlikely to have anything to say here since coloured people are still dramatically in the minority of those HIV positive (see below). The ACLU also will have little to say here since nothing ethical or legal has ever guaranteed the right of a person to donate blood; blood donation isn't a fundamental human right to be defended. The salient point here is that the NAACP and ACLU are irrelevant because: 1) we live in Canada; 2) coloured people are not being disadvantaged; 3) rights guaranteed by the American constitution are not being overridden; 4) the American constitution doesn't offer Canadians rights.

In 1996 there were 25,300 HIV positive MSMs, and 6,000 heterosexual and "other" Canadians HIV positive. The difference is a factor of 4.2. If MSMs makeup 5 per cent of the population, HIV was 80 times more prevalent in this group. In 1999 there were 29,600 HIV positive MSMs, and 8,400 HIV positive heterosexual and "other" Canadians. The difference factor is 3.5, meaning HIV is 67 times more prevalent amongst MSMs. If CBS excludes a small subpopulation of Canadians, they will also exclude the significant majority of HIV positive blood samples their laboratory screening process sees. If MSMs were an improbable 10 per cent, HIV would be nearly 34 times more prevalent amongst this community and the exclusion of these people from donating blood would still be justified.

Safe sex practices are inadequate screening devices. Condoms fail around one to two per cent of the time. Spermicides and IUDs are ineffective in preventing viral transmission. HIV can go undetected for six months after infection. If screening was based on condom use, monogamy or sexual abstinence for six months prior to donation would need to be determined for both the donor and or the partners. The inquiry into sexual behaviour may be a too intrusive and too extensive of an addition to a screening process that takes two to three hours already depending on the clinic.

One natural question is why are tattooed people not bandying together to protest this injustice (since they are not permitted to donate blood for 12 months after receiving a tattoo), and the reason is it was their choice – gay people are not presented a choice in sexuality. So is this discrimination we are seeing here?

There is also some misunderstanding of the word "discrimination" in this context. Many people understand discrimination to mean a bias or mistreatment based on irrational fear or hatred. This is racism, anti-semitism, or homophobia. In a medical or scientific context, a discriminant is simply a characteristic used to subdivide a population. A common discriminant for fruit flies is eye colour: red or white. This does not imply that red eyed flies are inferior, or white eyed flies should be worshipped like gods, it simply says that some flies fall into one of two categories. Similarly, Canadians fall into one of two categories – a low likelihood for being HIV positive and a higher likelihood for being HIV positive. For this reason CBS policy "discriminates" people into two groups; it does not mistreat MSMs nor is intended to harm or injure them.

LETTERS

Republicans would open debate in the UVSS

I've also walked by that Republican table during Club Days. I can't help but pay some attention to US politics, but seeing the booth here made me wonder. I'm no fan of right-wing politics, but I try to keep my mind open. In any case, I read your article on the small conservative clubs ["Conservatives on campus hope to broaden student views," Feb. 7, 2002] and I recalled what I had seen myself at the table. It takes a lot of guts to take a stand like that, and her [Lisa Karoway's] attitude wasn't at all what I expected either. It seems to me that she is doing what other left wing proponents talk about doing. Even if I don't agree on every issue, I have to hand it to her for that at least.

What I noticed was that her rhetoric was considerably more moderate and inclusive, not divisive as is all too common. Ms. Karoway seemed to be advocating for both sides of the political spectrum; I'd really like to see her run as a candidate for the Chair of the UVSS. I'd rather see someone I don't always agree with politically advocating for the rights of all students, than someone I happen to agree with ignoring half the student population. It's not just a matter of good intentions; it's a matter of not being so bogged down in the polarity of politics and arguing for arguments sake. The greatest failure is to take the immediately easy way out, without looking ahead. I'm afraid that most candidates jump at the feel good solution, only to create problems down the road because of that lack of foresight. That's the idea behind environmental protection, after all. I would encourage Ms. Karoway to run in the elections, and take that opportunity to get her message across. I may not agree with her, but I'll listen. That debate, alone, is needed.

Ryan Ripstra

UVSS Web voting

Do you guys know that the average voter turnout at a UVSS election is around 10 per cent? Us political types are always toying with the idea of how to improve those numbers.

One solution would be to provide Internet voting. It's already done for election of the senate and for co-op students, but for some reason, the current UVSS executive is resistant to such reforms on general elections. Why?

Could it be that if Web voting was introduced that it would increase the amount of computer science, engineering and commerce students voting and most of them would vote for a right wing slate? The current UVSS government gets most of their support from the Clearihue faculties, who statistically vote left.

There is always the argument that developing such Web technology would be expensive. But in fact, it would most likely save us money. After all, it would be a lot quicker to count votes and not as many polling stations would need to be opened.

Well then, what is holding them back? Isn't increasing voter turnout a good thing? Perhaps democracy and accountability is something an organization which has misplaced $311,000 would like to avoid. Wake up UVSS and join the 21st century!

Chuck Wootten

Next step: composting on campus?

Re: "Dispose with the disposable cups," Feb. 7, 2002. I am inspired by the passion for environmental commitment that shines in Lucas Goris' letter, appealing for a broader awareness of how our everyday choices impact the health of our land. If only everyone held these convictions, our campus community would not be responsible for its current tragically wasteful practices.

Concerning percentages of disposable coffee cups in our waste stream, the 1999-2000 Solid Waste Audit performed by the UVic Waste Reduction and Recycling Office (now under the supervision of the sustainability officer in Facilities Management), in conjunction with the UVic Sustainability Project, found that percentages (by weight) of disposable coffee cups in the waste stream of certain Uvic buildings ranged from 13 per cent (in a classroom) to 34 per cent (in a faculty office area). Further, the report identifies that the majority (64 per cent) of buildings audited had food waste, which should be composted, as the highest percentage component of waste by weight. If these two classes of items were removed from the waste stream, we would observe a significant decrease in the amount that UVic sends to the landfill.

Adam Mjolsness, UVic Sustainability Project

see page 18 for more op/ed...

coming in

The genius is someone who

Dearest Reader,

I cannot write a coming out letter. "Why not, Lisa?" you may ask.
Yes, a valid question. I cannot write a coming out letter because
I have never felt as if I've had anything to come out about.
Yes I am part of the queer community.
Yes I understand how oppression works.
I understand the fear of BJ's becoming a non-smoking bar and how endangered queer patrons might feel loitering outside smoking, vulnerable in the middle of downtown on a noisy Saturday night.
I understand that when some people say, "I'm gay, queer, a dyke, a lesbian, a fag, FtoM, MtoF" they risk losing their jobs, families, apartments, friends.
I understand that some people cannot even risk naming themselves in such a way.
I imagine the safety of the closet.
I imagine the pain of the closet.
Yet still I cannot write a coming out letter, cannot imagine coming out because I would not know what to say.
Yes all my long-term relationships have been with women.
Yes I am primarily attracted to women.
Yes I have slept with men.
No I am not a lesbian, bisexual, queer, a dyke, a tranny.
Yes I am.
Yes I love.
I have spent my whole life coming into myself and so I have written you a coming in letter, which is the letter of my life.

the daughter is angry at herself for withdrawing so complet
mother. for seeking other mothers that weren't mothers. ot
had fucked up daughters. the daughter is angry that she w
other not mothers. not mothers that withdrew from the da
they weren't the daughters' mother and they couldn't give
she needed. they were also scared that the daughter was a
though the daughter wasn't then and doesn't call herself th
scared that the daughter was a lesbian and they withdrew
daughter and the daughter didn't understand because she
she was just looking for her mother everywhere else but ho

What is Gay?

by Lisa Helps

I'm thinking too fast to write in my journal. My hands and a pen are not sufficient to capture my whirring thoughts. I've been really confused about gay lately and it just came to a head as I was talking to myself walking home from the bus stop. For some reason, the topic has come up quite frequently. I feel confused that my "coming out" story is not as dramatic, tragic, terrible as all the ones I read about in the library books. I have had nothing but support. In fact, people have said they respect me for having the strength to say how I feel and the insight to know what I want at this young age (I'm kinda little, I guess, but it doesn't usually feel like it). I'm sad that the meetings for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth are on Friday nights. It makes me feel as though the people who attend them are marginalized and c go out with people on Friday can't party with friends. O maybe they're so alone and as though they have no on each other and that hurts heart. What is gay? If s asked me if I was gay I'd like girls." But that doe mean I'll never have a ship with a guy. Every ways possible. But n always) I think girls, women, are beautif strong, gentle, supp full of life and ene often suppressed beyond our contr women are this aren't. What is not one partic

Wed Nov 2 1988
Head or anything I always make sure that I look nice when I go into vocal. I brush my hair at recess before French (vocal is right after French) It is not that I am a lesbian or anything like that I just care very much what she thinks

I always make sure that I look nice when I go into vocal [class]. I brush my hair at recess before French (vocal is right after French). It is not that I am a lezbeian [sic] or anything like that. I just care very much what she thinks.

Wed. Nov. 2, 1988

Thurs Jan 5 1988
right. My friends and I give each other hugs but if we walked down the street holding hands people would laugh. We are forced into so many things by society.

My friends and I give each other hugs but if we walked down the street holding hands people would laugh. We are forced into so many things by society.

Thurs. Jan 5, 1989

knows how to make everybody/the whole world a becoming

Gilles Guattari & Felix Deleuze

ely from the
ner mothers that
s hurt by these
ughter because
the daughter what
esbian even
at now. they were
nd hurt the
vasn't a lesbian
ne.

Sun. March 2 1997

makes me gay or not sir. Gay is a label, lesbian is a label. I have never been fond of labels. People are people are people. That's all there is to it. I'm not different 'cause I'm gay, I'm different 'cause I'm me. My confusion is resolved in this revelation. I am me, and my life is my life. If people choose to dislike me or punish me because I like women and am not ashamed and don't feel guilty about loving these fascinating creatures, if people condemn me for being me (someone I love with all my heart), then it is their loss. They lose! Love is love is love. Love cannot be defined or limited. It is not two bodies that love each other, but two hearts, two souls. Thus, what difference does a soul's encasement make to love?

strange as you are
daughter
with your jumbled thoughts, perceptions
your view of the world so unlike my own

strange as you seem
your love for women
what about my grandchildren dear?
what do I tell the family?

strange as you appear
almost bald
my son-like daughter

I gave you life
flesh of my flesh
product of my compassion

daughter, strange as you are,
I love you

...mommy

1998

I ache for language to express what you and I shared last night that won't make it sound like something is wasn't. I want to write of how beautiful and intimate and sensuous it felt to have my body pressed so closely to yours, to have your lips on mine, your gentle tongue in my mouth, without using the language of sexuality, or the language of sexuality as it has been (mis)used.

I can't live without naming because I am, among other things and sometimes above all, a writer. If I can't name then how can I understand? But you see I do understand. That what you and I share is not categorizable because it doesn't exist as an either or. It exists as an all. As an everything.

Sept. 12, 2000

"What did God taste like tonight?"
I wanted to ask my friends
As they filed back into the pew
After receiving communion
Not a sacrilegious question
Just trying to understand body
And blood
My own, yours and that supposed his
The Word made flesh
God as poetry then
Words hang on rib cages
and shoulder blades
skin on skin
God the lover
wanting to understand his creation
bore himself
through young virgin female flesh
I too
I God
bear myself over and over again
drape myself in flesh
and move through the world
to understand love
that fleshy, bloody, red, red word
What do I,
what do you,
taste like tonight?

Dec. 25, 2001

Mar 20 92

My sexual identity is another big question. It's one I can consider now without cringing or feeling nauseated. I have come to terms with the fact that I might be a lesbian

My sexual identity is another big question. It's one that I can now consider without cringing or feeling nauseated. I have come to terms with the fact that I might be a lesbian.

March 20, 1992

There is so much beauty,

Lisa Helps

Bruce LaBruce talks: sex, drugs and Jodie Foster

by Elianna Lev

For those unfamiliar with Bruce LaBruce, he is a person who can rightly be described as a man of many talents. In his 40-some-odd years he has accomplished an impressive amount of both underground and mainstream culture. He started the "Queercore" movement in Toronto through the zine* J.D.** ***He's produced a number of underground cult classic art-porn such as* Hustler White *and* No Skin Off My Ass.** ***He's established himself as a man about town, rubbing shoulders with A-to-C list celebrities. He's best known as a controversial, honest and red-hot writer and photographer for such publications as* Vice, National Post, Elm Street, Dutch, Butt, Honcho, Inches, index, the UK Guardian, Mix, Sight and Sound *and* Richardson.** ***Most importantly, LaBruce has managed to indulge in just about every vice this world has to offer and lived through many Suicide Tuesdays to tell about it. He is equally loved and loathed for his frank and shocking opinions, but his work is always well-articulated, humorous and real. A well as being a writer, photographer, filmmaker and underground queer icon, Bruce LaBruce is also my hero.

the Martlet: You have a column in both *Eye* and *Exclaim!* How does someone exactly go about getting not one but two columns?

LaBruce: For a while there I actually had three – I had a monthly column in a porn magazine called *Honcho* as well. I started writing for *Exclaim!* from the very first issue many, many moons ago because I was asked by my friend Hal Kelly, the original arts editor, and I think I may have owed him a favour. I got the (Toronto weekly) *Eye* column through the influence of Sam Hiyate of Gutter Press, who published my book *The Reluctant Pornographer*, which is based largely on my *Exclaim!* columns. I think the editor of *Eye* owed him a favour. So I guess it all boils down to favours.

M: You were one of the founders of the Queercore movement. Do you still have the "punk ethic" mentality?

L: I reckon I still have a certain punk ethos, although even when I looked like a punk I always had a certain ambivalence about identifying completely as one, although for me that was part of the punk ethos: not having to confine yourself to a fixed, prescribed identity. To me punk in the 80s was amazing because it was not only aesthetically and stylistically creative and innovative but it was also political and non-conformist. The very act of being tattooed and pierced and shaved, before the whole style became co-opted and de-radicalized by the mainstream, was overtly political. When I was doing fanzines, it was before the advent of the Internet and e-mail, so everything was done by hand, DIY – it was almost more like a craft. It was much more social and proactive as well; the Internet has moved everything into a more "virtual" mode, more theoretical, less grounded in the material world.

M: What's happened to the Queercore movement?

L: Queercore was a fiction I and my friends created, as if a full-fledged movement of radical queer punks existed in Toronto. This precipitated a real movement of sorts – fanzines, movies, gatherings – although something got lost in the translation to reality. It ended up being more commercialized and opportunistic, less idealistic. I don't really know if Queercore exists anymore, but as for me, I have just continued to do what I always do – write, make movies, take pictures, and critique the fucked-up world.

M: I understand you're in love. Isn't it grand? Why or why not?

L: Like Kim Novak says to her aunt Elsa Lanchester in *Bell Book and Candle*, when she's asked is it wonderful to be in love: "No, auntie, it's horrible! Horrible!". You see, she was a witch, who couldn't cry or blush, but when she fell in love with a mortal (James Stewart), she experienced the pain of love for the first time. I wasn't in love for about nine years, so when I started going out with someone, I held back because the last time I had my heart broken, it literally almost killed me. I felt emotionally numb for years as a defense mechanism. So I resisted falling in love and took it very slowly. So now I'm in love, but it's slightly more rational and we have a fairly unorthodox relationship. He's a devout Muslim as well, which makes things interesting.

M: Sometimes I'm a little concerned about your health with all the vices you seem to indulge in, but at the same time I admire and respect the fact that you obviously have your life together – evidenced by your well-articulated work in such publications as The National Post. By pulling this off, you're defying the "strung-out famous personality going in a downward spiral" stereotype. Or maybe you are going in a downward spiral but do a really good job at hiding the fact. Do you actually indulge in more – or less – sex and drugs and debauchery than you mention in your writing?

L: I don't make anything up in my columns and I have gone through periods of being a little insane and close to the edge, but believe it or not, I've never really got to the point where I've felt like I'm going down down down the dark ladder. And as I'm getting older I'm definitely cutting back on the drugs and alcohol. You get to a point in your life where it does have a negative effect on you physically and psychologically so you just have to pull back and take up knitting or something. Some people go so far down that they can't pull themselves back up, but fortunately that didn't happen to me.

M: Can you give me a few examples of what kind of responses you get from your writing? Are most of your fans or enemies queer? Hard to categorize?

L: People seem to either love my writing or hate it, same with my movies and photography. With my writing, I consciously avoid writing for specifically "gay" publications, although I do write on gay subjects in non-gay publications. Therefore I am often writing to a more heterodox audience and not preaching to the converted. I know a lot of the gays hate my writing because I'm often so critical of gay culture, but that community is so apolitical and lacking in self-criticism that they really need to be critiqued.

M: I think you kissing Tony Ward is the sexiest thing ever. Please elaborate.

L: Actually it was meant to be kind of grotesque, like when Coral Brown kisses Susanah York at the end of *The Killing of Sister George*. But whatever turns you on.

M: What's the story behind the Jodie Foster tattoo?

L: I got my Jodie Foster tattoo when I was a punk. She was a big punk icon because of her appearance in *Taxi Driver* and because she has always been a little tomboy dyke since her days guest starring on *The Courtship of Eddie's Father* with Brandon Cruz (who would later be a member of the Oxnard punk band Dr. Know), and because John Hinckley, Jr. tried to kill President Reagan to win her love. There was a punk band called JFA (Jodie Foster's Army), and a punk band called Ism had a great song about John Hinckley, Jr. called "What has Jodie Foster Done To You?" and another one called the Crucifux had a cool song called "Hinckley Had a Vision." So Jodie Foster is very punk rock. Mine is her from "Foxes," on my left shoulder.

photo provided

M: Worst thing about being LaBruce?

L: The worst thing about being LaBruce is that I'm rather introverted but my image isn't, so it's always been hard to live up to the persona.

M: Best?

L: The best part is that it's a persona that has allowed me to keep it real and not become a big jerk.

M: How did you hook up the gig at Vice? Are they really as scary and intimidating as they make themselves out to be?

L: I guess I met Gavin of Vice through my photographer friend Ryan McGinley who is this kid who hangs out and documents graffiti writers in New York. I met him through Jack Walls, Robert Mapplethorpe's last boyfriend. Yeah, they're scary and intimidating but only because they're "tho thenthitive" that they have to put up a front of being all tough and gnarly. But when you see them doing naked karaoke, they don't seem so scary.

M: You grew up in a small town yet you live – or appear to live – the ultimate big city lifestyle. Which do you lean towards?

L: I actually grew up on a farm, which was cool but isolated and lonely so now for me the more urban the setting, the happier am I. I like going back to the country on special rare occasions but I get nervous if I'm too far away from a 24-hour supermarket.

M: Which queers do you admire?

L: The usual suspects: Warhol, Passolini, Genet, Oscar Wilde, Gus Van Sant, John Waters, Fassbinder.

M: Are you happy?

L: At this point in history, yes.

M: Biggest accomplishment so far?

L: Making it to 40 alive.

M: Did you have to work twice as hard to prove yourself because you're gay?

L: Yes. Still do.

M: Do you get tired of talking about gay stuff?

L: Yes. I strive every day to make being gay a smaller part of my life.

M: What's the ultimate gay thing you've come across lately (person/place/thing)?

L: *Pearl Harbor* and *Black Hawk Down!*

Gayly sipping coffee at Moka House

by Anne Larrass

If you live in Victoria and are queer, there is a good chance that you'll find a lot of support. UVic alone provides a variety of services for queer students, such the Women's Centre, the Pride office, UVic Peer Counseling, and Counseling Services. But not everyone feels comfortable walking into one of these offices, fearing they might be seen.

This is why students and community members have created an off-campus support/social group for the those recently "out" to be in a safe and comfortable environment.

Every Friday night, a Coffee Social for the members of the queer community is held at the Moka House in Cook Street Village. The purpose of this event is to "give queer people on campus and their allies a stronger sense of casual social community," said Ayla Lepine, a fourth-year history in art student. In the past, the social was focused on pre-set discussion topics, but is now more casual.

"Forming those social relationships is really important. This casual atmosphere in a coffee social helps bridge that initial barrier between 'I am in the office' versus 'we're having coffee together,'" said Dan Kerr, a third-year English major and professional writing minor.

The peer support you receive during these social gatherings is different from sitting in an office with professional support staff. The idea is to share your stories with individuals who have struggled through similar experiences in coping with their sexuality.

> This casual atmosphere in a coffee social helps bridge that initial barrier between "I am in the office" versus "we're having coffee together."
>
> *Dan Kerr*

"A really important part [of the coffee social] is to feel comfortable talking about issues . . . being in a queer social environment in public," said Kerr. "It's a really important step for a lot of people. It's really casual. It's been important for people to come to a social environment and not necessary to form support relationships, but friends," he added.

Lepine stressed the importance of "providing a space that is at once warming and accessible without being overbearing."

The meeting is discrete and not always identifiable when you walk into Moka House. But feel free to walk up to the counter and ask one of the staff.

If you have questions about the Coffee Social, you can contact the Pride office in the SUB at 472-4393.

Loud and queer

by Anne Larrass

They come from as far away as Iran, China, and South Africa and from as close as right here in Victoria.

Seized by the desire to sing together, these individuals founded Victoria's first Choral Society of Lesbians, Gay Men and Allies in 1992, and named it Musaic. Occupying a variety of jobs and professions, such as lawyers, public servants, healers, writers, sandwich artists and students, this group of passionate singers meets regularly to rehearse and hold concerts.

In addition to the myriad of cultures that shape Musaic, the chorus has attracted members ranging in age from 19 to sixty-something.

Although the choir is mostly composed of gay or bisexual members, the group has attracted some straight singers as well, hence the name Musaic.

"One of the primary tenets of the choir is to be inclusive of everyone from everywhere and all genders and all persuasions," said choir member Melaney Black.

"Musaic is a non-auditioned community choir. It's a choir that is known for its spirit and its heart, and that's what draws people to join," said Black.

Musaic brings people together through song and the belief that increased diversity makes for a strong unit.

The choir has performed at the Gay Pride Parade, AIDS Walk, Kristallnacht and other benefit venues. Musaic also performs at four annual seasonal concerts, two in June, one on Valentine's Day and one in December.

This year, the chorus has been invited to participate in Vancouver's Unison fundraising concert on Feb. 23. As the first out-of-town choir invited to the annual event, Musaic will be performing with other queer choirs such as Vancouver Men's Chorus, Vancouver Women's Chorus, the Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Chorus, Vancouver Rainbow Concert Band and the Rainy City Gay Men's chorus.

Hosted by the Christ Church Cathedral on Burrard St. in Vancouver, the event serves as a fund-raiser for GLASS (Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Academics, Students and Staff), a gay youth support group that promotes respect for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation.

For more information on Musaic, check out their website at www.geocities.com/musaic_victoria/index.html, or leave a voice message at 598-2881

Campus culture calendar

VISUAL ARTS

Disquietude
Twenty-three artists display a wide variety of photography-based work, all revolving around the feeling of anxiety. Friday, Feb.8 - Feb. 15, noon - 5 p.m., excluding Feb. 10, 11, 12 @ Rogue Art Gallery.

CREATIVE WRITING

Writing Fair
(Combination of marathon and panel discussion) Bring your imagination and a red pen to Saturday's writing marathon. Feb. 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., registration @ 9:30 a.m. UVic Fine Arts building, lecture hall ($5; $4 for students).

Lansdowne Lectures
Sean Virgo, poet, novelist, and short story writer gives a lecture on "Cowardice in Writing." Wed., Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m. Clearihue A127.

MUSIC

Fridaymusic
School of Music woodwind students. Friday, Feb. 15, 12:30 p.m. @ Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation.

Chamber Music Series
Students perform music by renowned composers, including Handel, Copland, and Schubert. Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation.

Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra
performs Schumann's Symphony #1, "Spring". Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. @ University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Admission: $16, $12, $8.

Free Improvisation Workshop
and performance with Lori Freedman, clarinetist, Thurs., Feb. 21. Workshop at 3:30 p.m. in Maclaurin B037. Performance at 8 p.m. 512 Simcoe St.

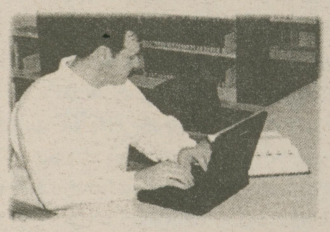
PERFORMING ARTS

The Monument
UVic presents Colleen Wagner's powerful parable The Monument. Friday, Feb. 14 - 23, Monday - Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. @ The Phoenix Theatre. Admission: $18, $9 (for students, excluding Fri. and Sat. nights).

submit your event info to martletart@yahoo.ca.

Nomy Lamm
Gender Apocalypse:
An end of finAlities
multimedia.presentation.performance.examining trans&genderqueer.activism.feminism.community.&more
tix@thedoor.$3 Tues.Feb.26@8:30
QueerWordsProject UVIC PRIDE ♀'s centre

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OR COMPUTER SCIENCE



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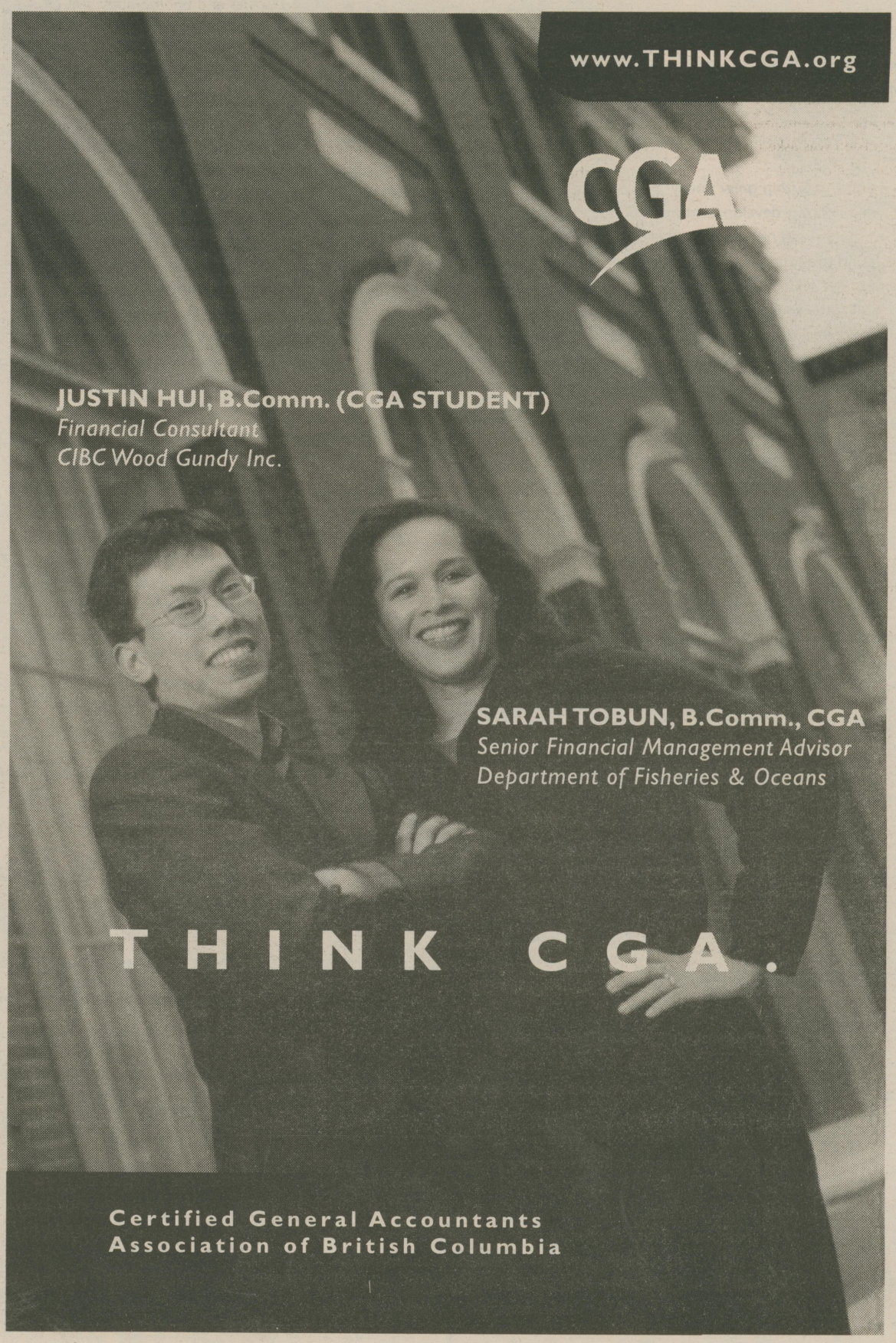

More than just one-liners – a tribute to tv's token gay characters

by Elianna Lev

Although I know that television isn't meant to be a fair representation of real life, it's still fun to bitch about how poorly it represents reality. If my life were a television program I'd be absurdly tall and thin, have an endless wardrobe of expensive clothing and a laugh track would come on every time I cracked a lame joke. My range of friends would summarize the wide ethnical spectrum of North America's population. These friends would be known as the "token" characters. The token black character. The token Hispanic character. And finally, a character that has recently been accepted into the television population: the token gay character.

Bert and Ernie aside, gay characters are a relatively new addition to television programming. It wasn't until 1992 that television introduced a recurrent gay character. That character was Ryan Phillippe as Billy Douglas on *One Life to Live*. But he only had one season to live. After that, viewers started warming up to homosexuals on television. Token gay characters are usually the ones with the quirky one-liners. But more often than not, they steal the whole show. And with shows like *Ellen* and *Will and Grace*, token gay characters may be a thing of the past.

Following are some of tv's more memorable token gay characters:

Dawson's Creek – Jack McPhee

Before he was outted, Jack had a little fling going on with Joey. But it was apparent that Jack was holding something back. Unlike the other guys, he didn't want to pressure Joey into having sex. Jack was the perfect gentleman. The perfect gay gentleman. Rather than portraying Jack as a boy-crazy hormone-raging teenager who loves Cher, this token gay character breaks the stereotype. He's a model-citizen and captain of the football team. Jack's kiss with his boyfriend Ethan was considered the first "romantic" same-sex kiss on cable television.

Felicity – Javier Clemente Quintata

Being both gay and Hispanic, *Felicity*'s Javier kills two token characters with one stone. He's the flamboyant one with the yellow-tinted glasses. He's also the only comic-relief on this angst-ridden show, adding all the witty and clever one-liners.

Melrose Place – Matt Fielding

Although he was accused of murder and being the mistress of a married man, it is hard not to love Matt. He is the soft-spoken doctor amongst the catty, back-stabbing Melrose gang. His on-screen kiss with another man would have made television history, but the smooch was cut last minute.

My So-Called Life – Enrique `Rickie' Vasquez

Rickie was the flamboyant, eye-liner wearing fag friend. He was kind and non-judgmental, and man, could he ever dance. When kicked out of his house, his English teacher, also queer, opened his doors. Very touching.

Roseanne – Nancy Bartlett, Leon, Jackie

Roseanne had a number of gay characters, including her sister, Jackie, and Leon, the owner of the restaurant she worked at. But it was Sandra Bernhard's role as Nancy Bartlett that brought her loud-mouthed irresistibility to millions of American viewers. About time.

The Simpsons – Waylon Smithers

Though the show never directly addresses Smithers as gay or "burns-"sexual, the overt references are endless. Be it his Malibu Stacy collection or the episode where he's shown driving a speed-boat followed by a pyramid of men in Speedos, Smithers is the most deliciously closeted token gay character on television.

Survivor – Richard Hatch

Considered to be the bitchiest castaway of the bunch, he's also the one who walked away with the one mil.

The Smurfs – Vanity Smurf

While all the rest of the village went off to fight Gargamel, Vanity was too busy looking at himself in the mirror, contemplating which flower to wear in his hair.

Slaying homophobia on prime-time tv

by Chris Bodenbender

Some people may think that UPN's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is just a bunch of attractive superheros and slain vampires. But the witty show is also about the slaying of other real-life demons, such as homophobia.

The character Tara was immediately mesmerized by Willow's presence, and Willow, who started to feel for this shy woman entering her life, wasn't quite sure what she was feeling. The chemistry was there from the moment they laid eyes on each other in the episode "Hush."

Their relationship grew slowly, showing Willow's development from when she first hid her new friend until she found the strength to accept and stand to her sexuality.

"I think the way Joss [Whedon, the show's creator] developed the relationship was so sweet and wonderful," said Alyson Hannigan, who portrays Willow, in a *Cult Times* interview. "When some reporters ask about us they go, 'Oooh! Lesbian affair!' but I say 'No! It's just two girls who are in love.'"

photo provided

Tara (left) under Willow's spell.

When finally told, Buffy et al reacted more or less shocked but accepting, a reaction not shared by everyone in the audience.

"There were just as many voices raised in support of the [lesbian relationship] arc as against," said Whedon at the 'Bronze,' *Buffy*'s main posting board. "[But] one post from a gay or questioning teen saying the show helped them is worth six hundred hate letters."

Amber Benson, who plays Tara, agrees. "I get the most amazing letters from young women," she told *Steppin' Out*. "Many women write me and tell me that they feel it's okay to be gay just from watching my character on television."

Although both actresses' love interests are of the opposite sex, their long-time friendship gave them the level of comfort that enabled them to create the amazing on-screen chemistry between the characters. Thanks to the honesty and sensitivity of the portrayal of the relationship, *Buffy*'s cutest couple – chosen 'Hit Couple 2001' by *Soap Opera Weekly* – is probably the first long-term (though momentarily crisis-shaken) lesbian relationship on prime-time tv.

Straight or gay – Sex is just cool

by Pamela King

It is a Monday night tradition. Ten 'o' clock rolls around and at least 12 loyal fans armed with ice cream and spicy fries gather in front of my television, ready to indulge in what may be the best show there is: *Queer as Folk* (*QAF*).

This addictive show, which originated in Britain, bears a large resemblance to *Sex and the City* (SATC). Except instead of straight women, the main characters are gay men.

They fall in and out of love. They get themselves into crazy situations. They have a lot of sex. *QAF* is pure entertainment.

A few Mondays ago, someone brought up the point that *QAF* is not an accurate representation of the queer community. This may be true, but then again, how many television shows are accurate representations of the communities that they portray?

As a member of the straight community I think it is safe to say that not all of us get laid as frequently, or by such a variety of people, as the ladies of *SATC*. It is unfair to generalize when it comes to anybody, regardless of their sexual orientation.

But the world is full of stereotypes. The world of television even more so. If television were a truly accurate portrayal of humankind, nobody would watch it.

The point is, no matter how far-fetched the lives of the characters on television may be, there is always something that the viewer can relate to. For twelve heterosexual females watching *QAF*, maybe that is what makes Monday nights so special. We realize that all people, no matter what they label themselves, are essentially the same. The sexual orientation of the characters we see on television really makes no difference when it comes to the enjoyment we gain from getting a glimpse into their exciting, albeit fictional, lives.

Brian on *QAF* is the male equivalent of Samantha on *SATC*. They both seem addicted to sex and utterly confused when they discover that they have feelings for someone. This is the stuff that entertainment is made of and no amount of hetero- or homosexuality can change that.

I was asked the other day why exactly I like QAF so much. I was asked why I enjoy watching a "bunch of gay guys" prance around and have sex with everyone in sight. My answer? Precisely the same reason I enjoy watching a bunch a straight gals prance around and have sex with everyone in sight. It's entertaining. And in some strange way, despite the fact that I don't have sex with everyone in sight, I can relate to it.

When it comes to what makes a television show good, the sexual orientation of the characters really isn't a factor. What matters is that we can relate to those placed on the screen. What matters is that the storylines are engaging and interesting. What matters is that, after awhile, we start to care about these made-up characters with whom we spend an hour a week.

QAF is good television because it meets all of these criteria. When Monday night rolls around, no matter what else is going on, I make time for *QAF*. It is the only television show that I watch on a regular basis. So, despite arguments that it is trashy and unrealistic, I remain a devoted fan. The fourth episode of the new season airs on Feb. 18 on Showcase. I plan to be there, armed with ice cream and spicy fries, ready to indulge.

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Valternative Groovefest to be held later this year

by Anne Larrass and Lisa Helps

The yearly Valternative Groovefest Anti-Fashion Show and Silent Auction typically held in February has been postponed to March 23.

"The date was intended to coincide with the Day for the Elimination of Discrimination," said Groovefest organizer Tathra Street. "And also because there was the venue issue. It is going to be at Vertigo which is really exciting."

Groovefest was created by former UVic women's studies student Maren Handcunt as a class project six years ago. The event has since grown into an annual affair which attracts a sold-out crowd year after year.

"It was intended to provide an alternative to Valentine's and to challenge some of the commonly held beliefs around relationships and sexuality, and also to bring to light ideas of discrimination and what is considered beauty," said Street.

According to the poster for the event, the focus is aimed at "challenging discrimination, stereotypes and -ism's with skits, song, and dance, spoken word and any other creative media."

Groovefest consists of a series of fashion-show-like sets punctured by various genres of performance art. Unlike a more traditional fashion show, Groovefest pushes at, rather than reinforces, norms.

"For the fashion show part, particularly the parts that attack beauty standards, we try to have people who normally wouldn't [participate] in the fashion show. Instead of having white, thin able bodies, we try to have lots of people of different colours, people of different sizes [and] abilities," said Laurie Boswall, UVic student and Women's Centre employee. The event is being planned by a community coalition which includes the UVic Women's Centre, who have organized this event in the past. Organizing Groovefest in this way is "really great because in the organizing there are more voices, which hopefully will make it a better event," said Boswall.

> [Groovefest] was intended to provide an alternative to Valentine's and to challenge some of the commonly held beliefs around relationships and sexuality, and also to bring to light ideas of discrimination and what is considered beauty.
>
> *Tathra Street*

Although Groovefest is supposed to be a celebration of diversity, this mandate has proven to be a challenge in the past few years.

"As much as people have put lots of energy into it, last year a few things got lost and this year we're hoping to change the gaze about what is an anti-fashion show," said Street.

Boswell said people who come out to the event can expect to have a really good time and have some stereotypes challenged.

And everyone, audience members included, could end up as part of the show, said Street.

"Maybe it's not a bunch of models up there with local designers' clothes," she said. "Maybe it's the people who come who are all dressed up that are on display."

Anyone interested in finding out more or helping out with Groovefest can call 721-8353 or email groovefest@hotmail.com.

photo provided

Members of Big Dance from Linda Raino's studio perform at Groovefest.

Victoria Independent Film & Video Festival
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Songcatcher rich with rugged purity

by Damian Kowalewich

Written and directed by Canadian Maggie Greenwald, *Songcatcher* invites an intimate insight into the dynamics of love between two musicians.

After being denied a promotion at the university where she teaches, Dr. Lily Penleric, a brilliant musicologist played by Janet McTeer, impulsively visits her sister, who runs a struggling rural school in Appalachia. There she makes the discovery of her life: a treasure trove of ancient Scots-Irish ballads. They are songs that have been handed down from generation to generation, preserved by the seclusion of the mountains. With the goal of securing her promotion, Lily ventures into the most isolated areas of the mountains to collect the songs. Secluded, she finds herself increasingly enchanted – not only by the rugged purity of the music, but also by the raw courage and endurance of the local people as they carve out meaningful lives against harsh conditions. It is not, however, until she meets Tom – a handsome, hardened war veteran and talented musician, played by Aidan Quinn – that she is forced to examine her motivations.

photo provided

Songcatcher uses both brilliant acting and extraordinary vocal performances to portray this truly captivating story about love and getting in touch with nature.

Fiction/Non-fiction? Storytelling is both

by Elianna Lev

Both old and new fans of Todd Solondz will be pleased with his new film, *Storytelling*. It has all his disturbing trademarks – annoying younger sibling, can't-help-but-feel-sorry-for-them loser protagonist – but on a much more tolerable scale.

The film is divided into two stories, Fiction and Non-Fiction.

Fiction is about a pink-haired writing student, her boyfriend with cerebral palsy and their Pulitzer Prize-winning professor. Some mad shit goes down and it all ends very abruptly.

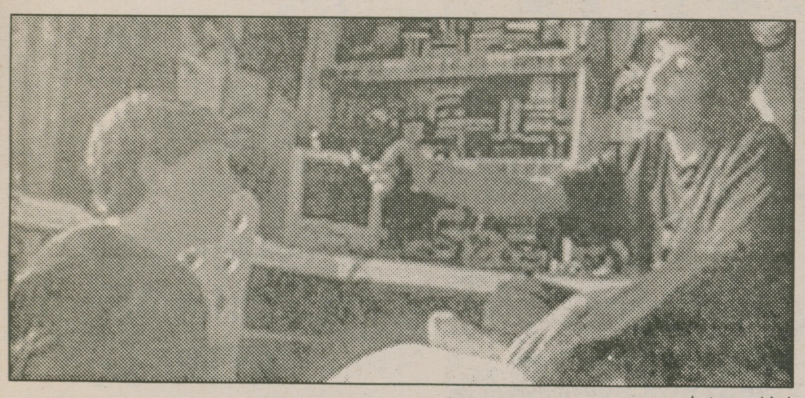

photo provided

Non-Fiction is about a wannabe documentary filmmaker/shoe salesman in search of the perfect human interest story. He comes across Scooby, a going-nowhere high school stoner who comes from a suburban Jewish family.

My only problem with the film was casting John Goodman as the suburban Jewish father . . . there's no way: He'll always be Dan Connor. My other only problem with the film was that I had the impression the soundtrack was done by Belle and Sebastian when really only three new songs were in the film, plus an old one. Regardless, the film was entertaining and disturbing, two key elements I look for in a movie, especially when I'm trying to escape my own boring and disturbing life.

Punk, pork, politics and prison: a *Useless* memory

by Victoria Bowman

There are two reasons you should remember Gerry Hannah: Subhumans and Squamish Five. Useless, a documentary by Glen Sanford, might help you remember the story.

Way back in history before they started selling ripped jeans in stores, some guys from Burnaby played in a punk band called Victorian Pork. Victorian Pork became the Stiffs, who further evolved into the Subhumans. By the early 80s, Subhumans' gigs like "Rock Against Radiation" were packed with thousands of thrashing supporters. West Coast punk was in full swing. Gerry Hannah, Subhumans' bassist, called himself "Gerry Useless." Everybody else called him "Nature Punk." In '82 Hannah got involved in a group called Direct Action that blew up the BC Hydro substation near Qualicum Bay and a Toronto munitions factory that was building components for nuclear cruise missiles. The media labelled the Squamish Five as terrorists and warned the Canadian public that the five represented a cell within a larger political activist group. Nature Punk got 10 years.

Useless is rooted in a minimalist punk aesthetic: crude, raw and spontaneous. With a crew of one using the scotch tape method, *Useless* revisions the history of the Squamish Five. "I wanted a film that was emotionally raw, not slick or commercial or burdened with conforming to industry standards," filmmaker Glen Sanford said. "If they rely on conventional ways of telling the story, even good examples of filmmaking and journalism aren't subverting the way we see the world."

Useless works with the unconventional storytelling techniques of no narration and little synchronized sound to convey the ambiguity between right and wrong in Hannah's arrest. Without a narrative voice over, viewers get the feeling that Hannah and his mother are speaking for themselves. Similarly the media clips, used in contrast with the personal narrative, cast media commentary in a new light – like "We make no judgments, we offer no conclusions, but we feel you should know more about the Squamish Five."

At Herman's Jazz Bar last Saturday where *Useless* was screened, Sanford warned the audience that the film was more emotive than a traditional documentary. "I abandoned the idea of telling the story in any coherent timeline," he said, linking the narrative instead around the theme of what it means to be free.

Hannah has a perspective on freedom few of us hope to gain. This in itself is enough to make *Useless* worth watching. Viewers can look at one possible outcome of illegal political dissent and reconsider how concepts like violence, justice and even terrorism are defined in our society.

Useless is available for rent at Haultain Video and will likely be shown at Cinecenta some time soon. To obtain a copy or arrange a screening contact Glen Sanford at glenette@telus.net.

Sports Call

by Ruth Knoop

"Citius, Altius, Fortius." Swifter, Higher, Stronger. Last time I checked, this was the motto for the Olympic games. So when did the outcome of Olympic events become so predetermined?

As I sit here writing this, I cannot help but be filled with frustration, resentment and even a little bit of anger. On Monday night two Canadian Olympic figure skaters suffered a huge injustice.

Jamie Salé (Alberta) and David Pelletier (Quebec) were unfairly judged and lost the gold medal in pairs figure skating.

Heading into the free skate, Salé and Pelletier were in second place behind Russian pair Yelena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze. The free skate counts for 60 per cent of the final score. Therefore if any of the top three pairs wins the free skate, they win the gold.

The Russians skated incredibly well, but they did make two small errors. Sikharulidze had problems with his double-axel jump, while Berezhnaya bobbled the landing on a throw triple-salchow. However, their artistry appeared to move the judges, who gave the pair high marks and praise.

The Canadian duo skated immediately after the Russians and were flawless. At no point did they falter. They were technically sound, with no mistakes, and were artistically moving.

After the skate, Pelletier celebrated the perfect performance by kneeling down and kissing the ice.

The standing ovation from the crowd and shouts of joy from the tv commentators (both Canadian and American) indicated the Canadians would surely be rewarded.

However, when the marks came up, they lost in a 5-4 split to the Russians. For the 11th time straight Russia took the gold medal.

This isn't the first time controversy has surrounded the figure skating results at the Olympics. At the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, Canadian ice dancers Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz, who had medalled at the World Championships for several years, were denied a medal and finished fourth.

Immediately following the '98 Olympics, an investigation by the International Skating Union determined that a judging controversy had occurred, explaining the Canadian duo's poor placing.

Supposedly the problem with the controversial judging had been rectified. However, judging by the Olympic outcome, nothing has changed in the sport.

At the opening ceremonies held last Friday, a representative of all judges stood up and took an oath to be fair to all competitors. Where was that oath Monday night?

"Frankly, I'm embarrassed by our sport," said commentator and skating choreographer, Sandra Bezic.

And, so am I, but not about Salé and Pelletier. They may have received the silver medal, but it was a gold-medal performance.

You have to give Salé and Pelletier credit though. They were obviously upset and incredibly discouraged, however at no point did they speak negatively about the gold medallists or the judges. They merely stated that they did their best, could not have performed any better and that the result was out of their hands.

However, during the playing of the Russian Federation's anthem, Salé could no longer hold the tears in. But, who can blame her? I felt like crying right along with her.

Salé and Pelletier were robbed. Nothing can justify their placement. The Olympics are supposed to be about athletic ability, not politics.

Sadly, it appears that politics wins out again.

Coming out on the field

by Iain McCletchie

If it weren't for the events of Sept. 11, Mark Bingham would have remained an insignificant name. But Bingham has become a hero to millions.

Bingham was a passenger on Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania immediately after two planes smashed into the World Trade Towers.

Investigators believe he was one of the four men who acted, maybe rushed the cockpit, when they realized the flight was going to end in disaster.

Who was Mark Bingham? According to friends and media profiles, he was a 6'5", 230-pound former varsity rugby player at Berkeley who "embraced life to the fullest."

He ran with the bulls in Pamplona and once tackled the Stanford mascot during a football game.

Friends said he was "intensely competitive, yet fair and a great sportsman. Someone who would knock you down with a stiff arm and then inquire as to what bar we were all going to that night."

Bingham was also gay.

It seems a little strange doesn't it? A gay rugby player. Isn't that kind of like mixing milk with ketchup? For some reason, it just doesn't sound right.

But you know something? It is right.

Mark Bingham wasn't an elite athlete but he was an athlete, just like you and me and thousands of people in Victoria. He was a man who understood who he was and wanted everyone else to understand that. After forming an exclusively gay rugby team in San Fransisco, Bingham sent an informal email to his teammates. It read like a mission statement.

"I always thought that my interest in other guys would be an anathema - completely repulsive to the guys on my team and to the people I was knocking the shit out of on the other team. I loved the game but knew I would need to keep my sexuality a secret forever. I feared total rejection.

"As we worked and sweated and ran and talked together this year, I finally felt accepted as a gay man and a rugby player. My two irreconcilable worlds came together.

"Now we've been accepted into the union and the road is going to get harder. We need to work harder. We need to get better. We have the chance to be role models for other gay folks who wanted to play sports but never felt good enough or strong enough. More importantly, we have the chance to show the other teams in the league that we are as good as they are. Good rugby players. Good partiers. Good sports. Good men.

"This is a great opportunity to change a lot of people's minds."

Bingham wasn't alone. Several gay athletes share his point of view, his love of sport, his personal crusade.

Australian Ian Roberts is one of them. Roberts was once the highest-paid rugby league player in the world. He was a man at the top of his chosen sporting profession.

After coming out in 1991, Roberts lost endorsements. It was tough, but rugby fans stood behind him and he eventually gained in sponsorships.

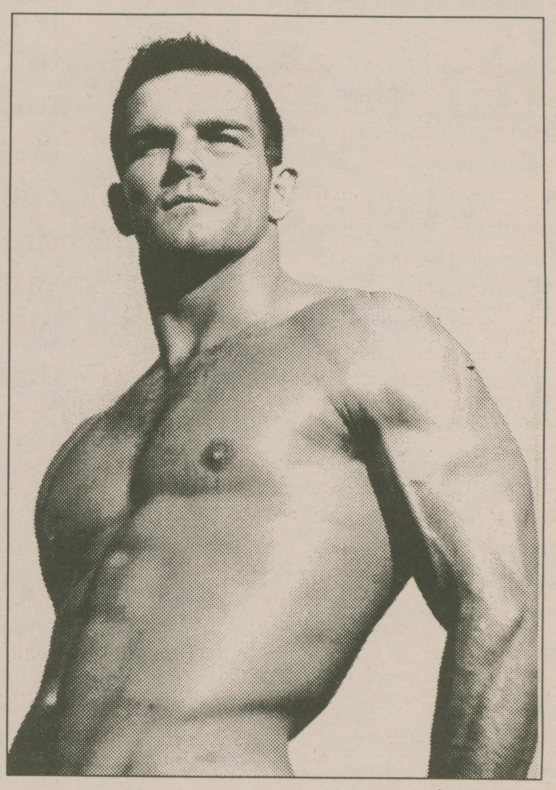

photo provided

Ian Roberts, rugby player and vocal gay athlete, poses for the camera.

Contrary to popular belief, he never felt persecuted in the locker room.

"I take offense at the old locker room argument which assumes a man cannot, in any circumstances, control his urges," Bingham said.

"Any self-respecting human being can respect the rights and ways of another human being. We want to play the game, not the field."

Major League pitcher Mike Timlin concurred with Roberts when he said "I've played with a gay teammate, knowingly, and it was never a problem."

Former Olympian Mark Tewksbury, who won the gold medal in the 100 metre backstroke in Barcelona in 1992, didn't play a team sport. However, he had obstacles to overcome and has since become one of the most outspoken gay activists in Canada.

"For the record, I'm not just gay. I'm a screaming queen."

But Tewksbury struggled with his sexual orientation and it wasn't until his thirties that he felt secure with it.

"That little part of me remained locked up for 30 years, and finally at 30, I am free of that," he said. "I am open to who I am. I've never felt freer, better, more whole as a human being than in the last couple of days. My worlds are finally integrated. It's too painful to live a double life or a triple life."

Tewskbury feels that sports made him stronger and carried him through.

"Luckily there was swimming. Luckily there was sport. I think sport saved my life to a certain extent when I was a teenager."

All three of these men – Bingham, Roberts and Tewskbury – and countless others like them, have struggled with their sexuality and the decision to reveal it to their fellow athletes.

In each case, despite some difficulties, these men found that they were accepted and viewed no differently from other teammates.

Each combined their private and public lives, remained true to themselves while continuing to compete in sports. These men show that it's possible.

They lead by example.

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Deconstructing gay stereotype in sport

Can't think of a queer athlete? Well, you're not paying enough attention. *Martlet* sports writer Ruth Knoop put her research skills to the test and found plenty. Check it out.

by **Ruth Knoop**

When asked to name a queer Olympian, most people respond with diver Greg Louganis.

When asked to name a queer Canadian Olympian, people usually respond with figure skaters Toller Cranston and Brian Orser.

Society still associates male queer athletes with artistic sports, and female queer athletes with masculine sports. Why is that? There are many queer athletes – some amateur, some Olympians, some professionals – who do not fit this stereotypical mold.

In 1920, American Bill Tilden, an openly gay tennis player won the first of three Wimbledon men's singles titles. He then went on to capture seven US Championships.

Tom Waddel, a 30-year-old Army physician, placed sixth in the decathlon at the Olympics. In 1981 he formed the San Francisco Arts and Athletics, the movement that paved the way for the Gay Games.

NFL running back David Kopay, who played for five teams (San Francisco, Detroit, Washington, New Orleans and Green Bay) between 1964-72, became the first gay pro team athlete when he openly came out in 1975.

In 1981 tennis stars Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova came out of the closet. For Navratilova, the public announcement cost her thousands, if not millions of dollars in endorsements.

During 1988 several more prominent athletes came out of the closet: 1984 Olympic gold-medal swimmer Bruce Hayes and British soccer star Justin Fashanu informed the world of their desired sexual orientation.

Louganis, the Olympic gold-medal winning diver, and perhaps one of the most well known queer athletes, publicly announced he was gay and HIV-positive at the Gay Games in 1994.

That same year, Missy Giove, already out of the closet, won the first of her three Mountain Biking World Championships.

The next year, Australian rugby player Ian Roberts publicly announced that he was gay (see "Coming out onto the field," page 16). However, unlike Navratilova, the media did not criticize him. Rather, he became an icon for the Gay Community in Australia, and his endorsements increased. At the same time, Olympic gold and silver medallist Mark Tewksbury announced he was gay.

In 1996 the number of openly queer and proud athletes increased as figure skaters Rudy Galindo and Doug Mattis came out of the closet. As well, 18-year LPGA veteran Muffin Spencer-Devlin spoke openly about being a lesbian.

In 1998 two-time Olympic silver medallist Brian Orser's sexual orientation was revealed when he was sued by a former boyfriend.

When asked why he kept his sexual orientation quiet, Orser replied, "Other skaters, both Canadian and American, guard their gayness closely because of the likely impact of public disclosure on their careers."

Sadly, this notion of repercussions for being a queer athlete does not seem to be diminishing.

According to Gay Games Chief, Garrie Gibson, "[They] don't come out about their sexuality because of the fact that it can have an impact on their opportunities to compete or on their opportunities to attract sponsorship."

If Gibson is correct in his assumptions, then perhaps we know why there are presently no known openly gay or lesbian competitors at the Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City. Fear.

Online magazine Outsports.com editor Jim Buzinshi believes that homophobia alone accounts for the limited number of openly gay and lesbian Olympic athletes.

"Sports is one of the last great bastions of homophobia," Buzinshi said.

As well, like Gibson, Buzinshi believes that "there is a great fear that being out will ruin a future career, or chances for product endorsements."

It is sad and disturbing that many athletes feel, for whatever reason, that they need to hide their true identity, especially out of fear of being judged.

Athletic competitions are about athletic ability and athletes should be judged solely on ability and accomplishments, not sexual preference.

We are all people, regardless of sexual orientation, and we all deserve to be treated the same, with fairness and respect.

photo by Melissa Cook

UVic men's rugby battles it out against the Ravens at Wallace Field Saturday. The lead swung back and forth throughout, but the Vikes came out on top 22-19. The win moves UVic to 8-3 in BCRU Premier League standings.

Vikes head into playoffs at UBC

by Craig Battle

The Vikes' basketball teams are headed in opposite directions.

The men will travel across the Georgia Strait this weekend for the opening playoff round at UBC, while the women now begin on the long road of preparation for next season.

Both the men and the women dropped their weekend sets at Saskatchewan last weekend, but nothing changes for either team.

The women were already out of the playoffs and the men were already in.

The men fought out two tough games against the Huskies, losing each by only nine points. But they didn't fail to put points on the board, scoring 85 on Friday and 98 on Saturday.

Sandy Bisaro led the Vikes offense with 61 points, while Keith Bustard added 53 of his own with 14 boards.

The Vikes could not, however, slow the Husky offence – the Huskies totalled 201 points in the two games.

"We got eaten up," said Vikes' assistant coach Craig Beaucamp. "We obviously weren't too happy."

However, Beaucamp quickly noticed that the Saskatchewan set will have little effect on how the team goes into UBC.

"You can't get too high or too low," he said. "We're not going to be thinking about Saskatchewan this weekend."

But the Vikes will be thinking about defense against a talented Thunderbird squad.

"Despite all the injuries we always seem to be able to put points on the board," said Beaucamp.

"It's the playoffs now. Defense has to come first."

UVic will also have nearly an entire roster to work from. The Vikes have been plagued with injury since the early weeks of preseason.

Jason Crawford, hampered by an ankle injury, returned last weekend to score 20 points in only 15 minutes on Friday night.

The Vikes will also have Orlando Ferguson and Regan Daly, who missed last weekend's trip, as well as a nearly recovered Nathan Ashmead.

"We're getting pretty healthy again," said Beaucamp. "We need contributions from everyone if we're going to win," said Beaucamp.

Unlike the Vikes, the Thunderbirds are coming off two convincing wins on the road at SFU.

Regardless, the Vikes are looking ahead, not back. They appreciate the weekend's sense of urgency.

"If we don't win two this weekend the season's over," Beaucamp said.

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Law schools plan big tuition hikes

by **Paula Bialski**

> There are so many ways a lawyer can help society, but when they're in the hole, they're only looking to help themselves.
>
> *Joel Duff*

Guelph (CUP) – Two of Canada's top law schools are proposing substantial tuition fee hikes.

Students at both Queen's University and the University of Toronto law schools would be expected to pay over $20,000 a year if plans are approved by the schools' respective faculty councils.

On Feb. 1 the Queen's faculty of law held a board meeting addressing Dean Allison Harvison Young's proposal to increase tuition.

Harvison Young said boosting fees is a necessary measure to ensure the university's law school can continue to provide quality education.

"The size of the increase has been necessitated by continuing cutbacks in government support and the rising costs," she said. "Also, the recruitment of newer professors has become more expensive. Another factor for us is the reality of facilities that are in desperate need of renovation and which are at present inaccessible."

Young added the changes will not apply until the 2004-05 school year.

Joel Duff, the Ontario chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, said the law faculties shouldn't be downloading escalating costs onto the backs of students.

"The faculty boards are fundamentally flawed in the position that they're taking," said Duff.

"What they're really doing by hiking up the tuition is putting the student in substantial debt. And after they graduate, they're not getting a good job because of this debt. There are so many ways a lawyer can help society, but when they're in the hole, they're only looking to help themselves."

Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich, spokesperson for the Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen's (SGPS), says she hopes for solidarity between faculty members and students.

"We want the universities to do something great and noble for the students," said Jaremko Bromwich.

"I have nothing against the dean of our law school. I think she's doing a great job and I understand that the law school is in dire need of money. But we need to act against the government, not the students," she said.

Although current law students will be protected from the hikes, many fear the change will result in fewer minority, underprivileged and publicly supported candidates for law school.

The University of Toronto law faculty dean, Ron Daniels, has said that since many professors face the lure of higher salaries in the United States, the tuition increase is imperative for the university to hold on to these teachers.

Daniels said the remainder of the money garnered from fee hikes will be used to increase student aid in the form of bursaries and after-graduation student-debt relief.

Minutes from the Queen's faculty of law board meeting have not yet been made public.

LETTERS CONTINUED

Response to Chief Chris Cook III's "'Aboriginals' not the lowest rung"

Thank you for your letter "Aboriginals not the lowest rung" from Jan. 31 in *the Martlet*. I found your letter thought provoking, and in need of an accurate response. I carefully considered about how I was going to respond to this letter.

I appreciated your willingness to disagree with Gordon's article ("Grabbing the Whiteman: Academic racism and bias on campus: Jan 24, 2002); I think that everybody has the right to protest as they see fit. I also think that people need to deal with the fallout of their protest, and it could be good or bad fallout as the case may be. The important distinction regarding most of your letter is that it leaves out vital, up-to-date information, as well as makes some glaring generalizations that are simply not appropriate or based in fact. I will not get into a sentence-by-sentence critique of your work, but in acknowledging yourself as a Chief and UVic Alumni, I assumed a better understanding of "all the 'Aboriginal' students at UVic that you challenge."

Members of the NSU have had a recent meeting with the director of Counselling Services to talk about Gordon's article, as well as the general academic and support services available to First Nation students at UVic. The meeting was informative, and further dialogue was planned to address the perceived gap between Aboriginal student services needs, and the provision for those needs by UVic. Among the NSU's commitments for 2001/2002 is applying for actual funding from the student body, conduction and Aboriginal Awareness Week (Feb. 25- Mar. 1), opening further dialogue with UVic administration, supplying work for our new column "Indigenous Perspectives," etc. The NSU does not have set hours of operation but we can be reached at 472-4394 in B035 in the SUB (most days and weekends).and by email at nsu@uvic.ca

To Chief Chris Cook III, please honour myself and fellow NSU members with actual research and balanced judging of our realities – if you see it appropriate to actually do that.

Peace.

Chris O'Cheek

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

The Canadian Tibet Committee presents: Tibet's Freedom Struggle – Then and Now. Documentary film: *The Shadow Circus*, with speaker Jamyang Norbu. **Sun. Feb. 24**, 7:30 p.m. in UVic's David Lam Auditorium. Tix $5. Phone 360-1435.

OFF CAMPUS

'The Amazing Breasts.' A workshop for women about breast health. **Feb. 23**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost $60, includes lunch. Build your own model of a breast to see how this wonderful part of your body works with Louise Smith MSc, Ovarian Connection, educator in girls' and women's biology. Learn how to do self breast massage and other simple therapies with Pam Fichtner RMT, Sephira Healing Centre, Vancouver. For more info email: Breastfeeding_Matters@hotmail.com, or phone Eve McLeod at 598-2264.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stop smoking through hypnosis! Next Victoria workshop: **March 2.** Student price: $59 + GST 413-3124 www.Walsh-Seminars.com

Out of the Closet and in your Face: an exhibit of photography celebrating lesbian life. The exhibit will take place at UVic in April and we need photography from the community in order to make this a rousing success! Anyone can submit! We really mean that! The photography must include the subject of lesbianism! Get creative, get sexy, and get your submissions in by March 30. For more info contact Kaylie at 386-1969 or Valerie at 370-7736 or email submissions@technodyke.com

EMPLOYMENT

Interested in teaching children English in Korea for a year? You need a university degree or be in your final semester to apply. $2200 CAD, 30 hours a week, free airfare and housing. For full details email me at ian@drskorea.com

Summer camp staff wanted: child-care and rec staff. Camp for ADD/LD children in NE Pennsylvania. **June 22 to Aug. 18** – many Canadian staff. Camp pays a stipend in US $, plus travel allowance, working visa, health ins. and room & board. Local interviews, call Bob at 385-5277 or email summit_bc@hotmail.com, or visit us at www.summitcamp.com

Summer camp counselors, on-campus interviews for premier camps in Massachusetts! Positions available for talented, energetic and fun-loving students as counselors in all team sports including roller hockey and lacrosse, all individual sports such as tennis and golf, waterfront and pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry and radio. Great salaries, room & board, travel, and US summer work visa. **June 18 to Aug. 17.** Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more info and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC – www.campmkn.com (boys): 1-800-753-9118; or DANBEE – www.danbee.com (girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus **Mon., March 4**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the SUB Rms. B025 and B028.

Travel – teach English: job guaranteed. Make great $$. 5 day/40hr (**May 1-5** or online/correspondence) TESOL Teacher cert./license. Respected worldwide, government accredited. 1000s of jobs. FREE info pack 1-888-270-2941 www.canadianglobal.net FREE info session: **March 19.**

VOLUNTEERS

Interested in helping others and learning life skills? Peer Helping is recruiting for next year's volunteers. Information available at our office, SUB b106 or call 721-8343, 9:30 to 4:30, M-F.

TUTORS

ESL: proofreading and tutoring. 595-5940 or email woods@ampsc.com

FOR SALE

1988 Plymouth Reliant LE. Auto, 4-door, maroon, well maintained. Only 151,000 km $1,750 o.b.o. Call 480-7748.

1988 Honda civic wagon for sale. Only 85,000 km on engine! Great condition. $4500. Call Sue at 721-6903.

Discount tires and auto repairs. Guaranteed tires from $10. 383-1050.

HEY YOU

Oh, won't you be mine, Valentine? Or, in the sardonic voice of an ex – Happy V.D.

Happy Valentines to Brooke Rose and the house on Stanley, as well as a certain Munchie Bar-cum-gym-buddies duo, the bestest bosses ever (especially the dork), the girls from 426, the guy with the curly hair who sits in the corner, his sweetie roommate, the whole gang from 468, Zap!, and *the Martlet*, the Nesferatuesque playwright, Mr. Grant Sheppard, signore Glezos, rainbow Maia, and all the other beautiful people that have a hold on my heart! Geesh, that was my Oscar acceptance speech and then some. Love you all.

Baby Ruth, you rock the casbah. Where, oh where, would we, would sports, be without you? Nowhere. That's where. We are thankful for you this Valentine's Day. I and C.

Red-haired news editors are fun and good with strong emphasis on the fun. And good. Ya.

Yo Craig, you hot ass, give me a call so I can steal your treasure map. Happy Valentine's day you hot, sexy stallion of a man you.

hey Gilly... I can't wait. thank you. and you're right... it will all be ok. happy birthday.

Wanted: one small cute editor from big city for acts of forbidden Valentine love and mutual investigative journalismsturbation. Warning: may kidnap and whisk away. Bring shoes.

BILLBOARD RATES

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
hey you!	$1/issue

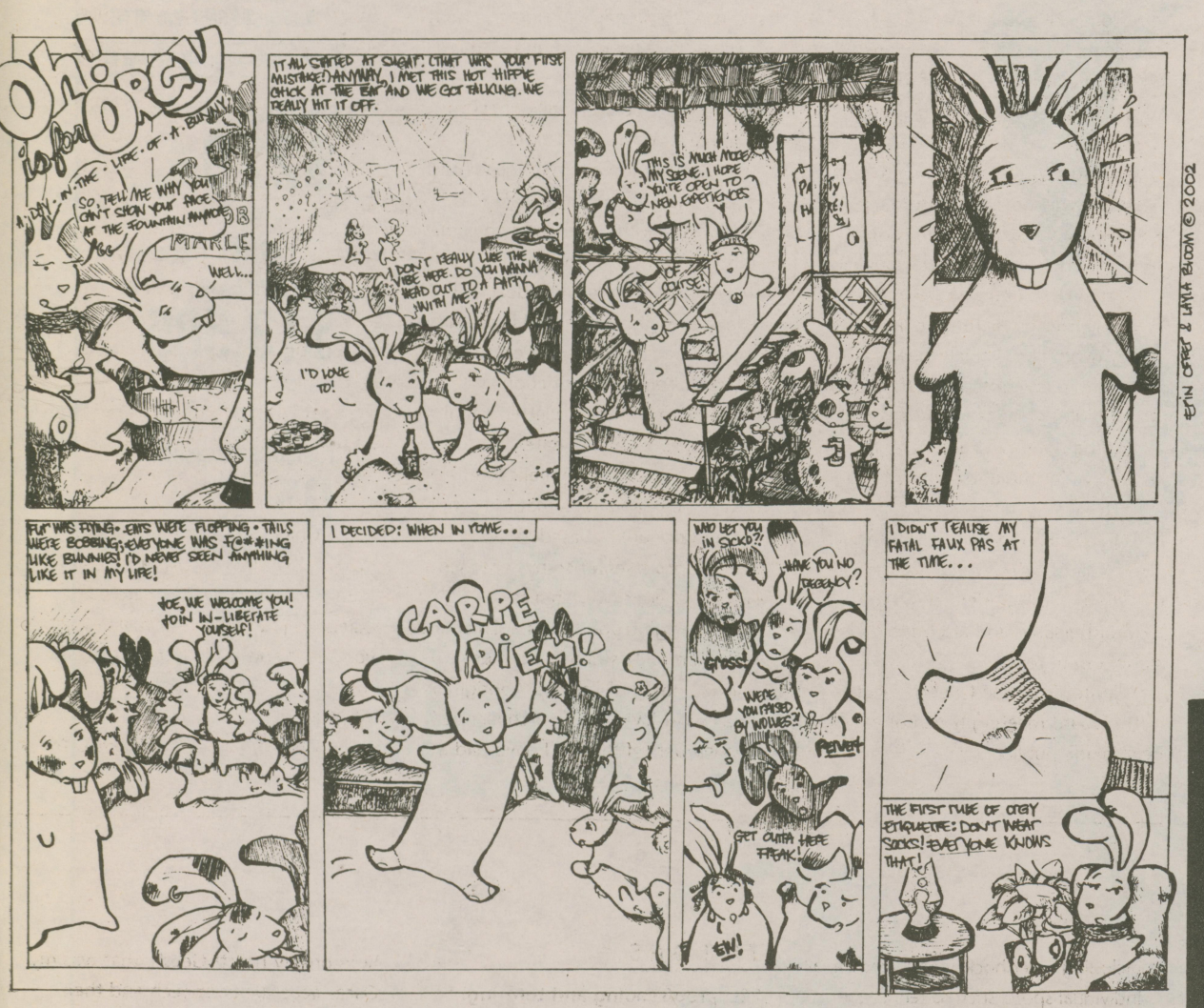
the Martlet is hiring! yee-haw!

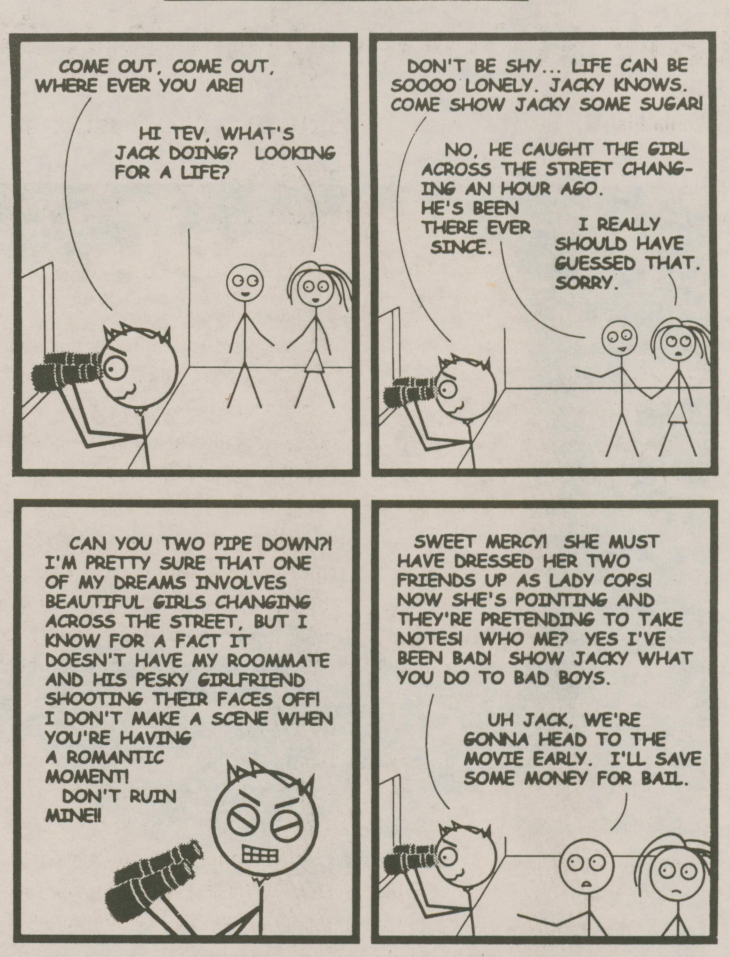
Want to make a difference in this harsh reality of ours? *The Martlet Publishing Society* is looking for an **Editor-in-chief**, a **Managing Editor** and a **Production Co-ordinator** for the 2002-03. These are full-time positions.

For details, call **Lisa or Darren** at 721-8361. Please drop résumés off at *the Martlet* office (sub b011). We will not accept résumés by fax or e-mail. Full job descriptions are available at the office.

Deadline is March 1, 2002

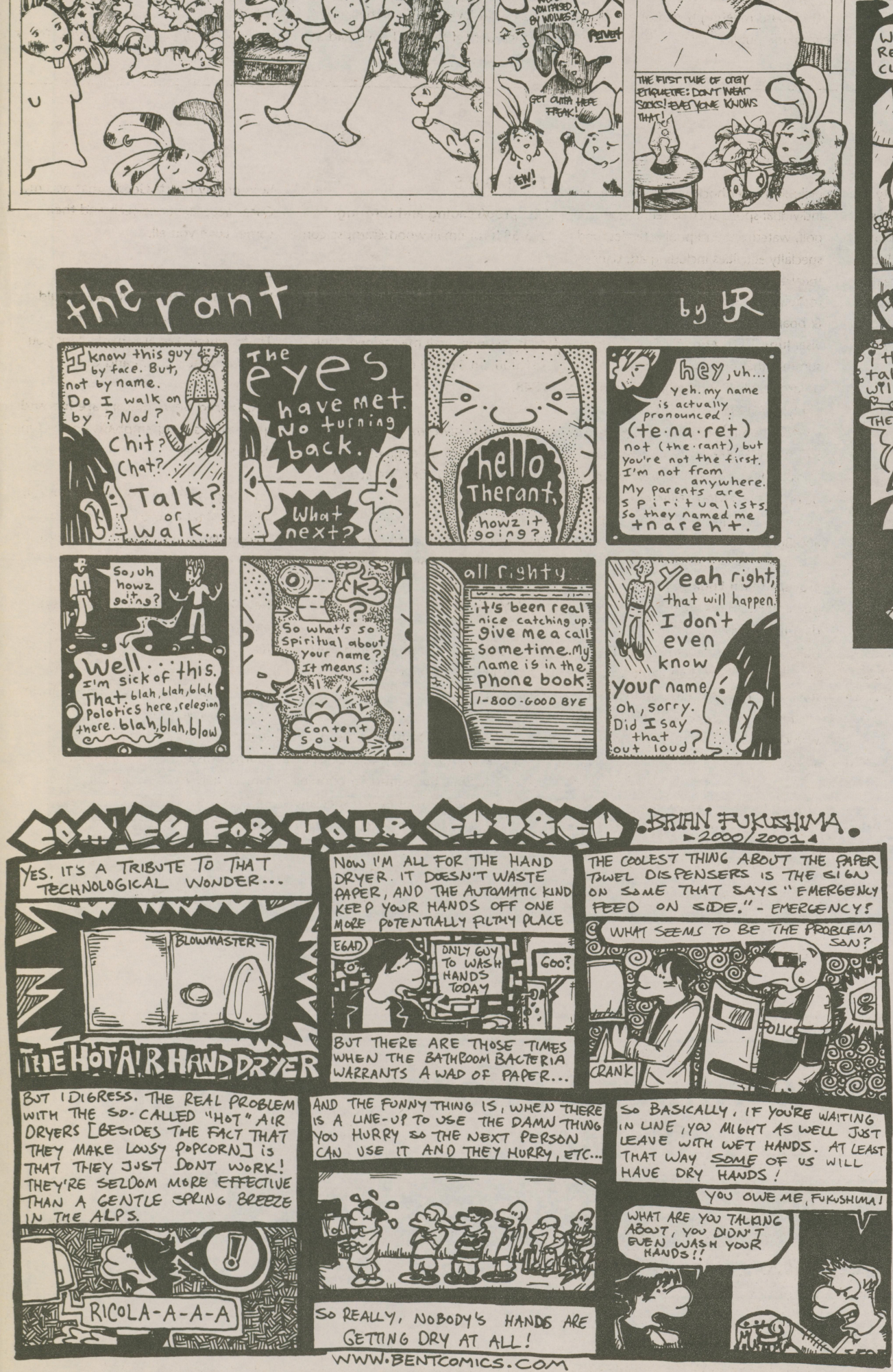
comics

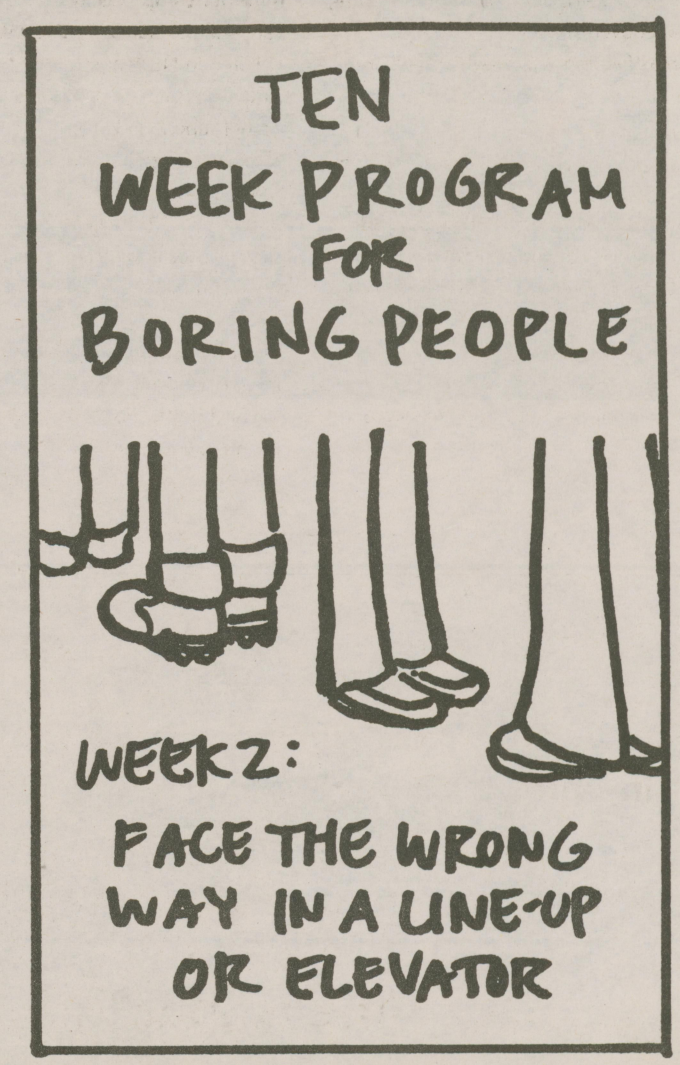

Oh! is for ORGY
IT ALL STARTED AT SUGAR'S. (THAT WAS YOUR FIRST MISTAKE!) ANYWAY, I MET THIS HOT HIPPIE CHICK AT THE BAR AND WE GOT TALKING. WE REALLY HIT IT OFF.
I DON'T REALLY LIKE THE VIBE HERE. DO YOU WANNA HEAD OUT TO A PARTY WITH ME?
I'D LOVE TO!
THIS IS MUCH MORE MY SCENE. I HOPE YOU'RE OPEN TO NEW EXPERIENCES
OF COURSE!
FUR WAS FLYING. EARS WERE FLOPPING. TAILS WERE BOBBING. EVERYONE WAS F@#KING LIKE BUNNIES! I'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT IN MY LIFE!
JOE, WE WELCOME YOU! JOIN IN - LIBERATE YOURSELF!
I DECIDED: WHEN IN ROME...
CARPE DIEM!
WHO LET YOU IN SICKO?
HAVE YOU NO DECENCY?
GROSS!
WERE YOU RAISED BY WOLVES?
REVERT
GET OUTTA HERE FREAK!
EW!
I DIDN'T REALISE MY FATAL FAUX PAS AT THE TIME...
THE FIRST RULE OF ORGY ETIQUETTE: DON'T WEAR SOCKS! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!
ERIN CARTER & LAURA BLOOM © 2002


have a Nice Life.
by scott hilton www.haveanicelife.org
COME OUT, COME OUT, WHERE EVER YOU ARE!
HI TEV, WHAT'S JACK DOING? LOOKING FOR A LIFE?
DON'T BE SHY... LIFE CAN BE SOOOO LONELY. JACKY KNOWS. COME SHOW JACKY SOME SUGAR!
NO, HE CAUGHT THE GIRL ACROSS THE STREET CHANGING AN HOUR AGO. HE'S BEEN THERE EVER SINCE.
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT. SORRY.
CAN YOU TWO PIPE DOWN?! I'M PRETTY SURE THAT ONE OF MY DREAMS INVOLVES BEAUTIFUL GIRLS CHANGING ACROSS THE STREET, BUT I KNOW FOR A FACT IT DOESN'T HAVE MY ROOMMATE AND HIS PESKY GIRLFRIEND SHOOTING THEIR FACES OFF! I DON'T MAKE A SCENE WHEN YOU'RE HAVING A ROMANTIC MOMENT! DON'T RUIN MINE!!
SWEET MERCY! SHE MUST HAVE DRESSED HER TWO FRIENDS UP AS LADY COPS! NOW SHE'S POINTING AND THEY'RE PRETENDING TO TAKE NOTES! WHO ME? YES I'VE BEEN BAD! SHOW JACKY WHAT YOU DO TO BAD BOYS.
UH JACK, WE'RE GONNA HEAD TO THE MOVIE EARLY. I'LL SAVE SOME MONEY FOR BAIL.

SAM & FUZZY
©2002 BY SAM LOGAN! esrever@eudoramail.com
WELL, I THINK THIS IS THE RIGHT RESTAURANT... I WONDER WHERE CLAIRE'S PARTY IS?
Oh, Sam! I'm so glad you made it!
WAAH!!
OH GOD!!
CLAIRE! IT'S GOOD TO--
YOU WERE ALWAYS SO FUNNY, SAM! YOU BROUGHT A TEDDY BEAR WITH YOU? THAT'S SO CUTE!
"TEDDY BEAR"!?
I THINK I'LL PUT YOU AT TABLE SIX. I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL FIND YOU AS FUNNY AS I DO!
THERE ARE SIX TABLES?
TEE HEE! SEE YOU LATER, FUNNY GUY!
GREAT! I'M NOT A GUEST, I'M PART OF THE FLOOR SHOW.
HERE'S ONE FOR YOUR STAND UP ACT, "FUNNY GUY. "HOW DRUNK IS FUZZY GOING TO GET TONIGHT?"
PUNCHLINE: "VEERRY DRUNK."

the rant
by LR
I know this guy by face. But, not by name. Do I walk on by ? Nod ? Chit? Chat? Talk? or walk...
The eyes have met. No turning back.
What next?
hello Therant, howz it going?
hey, uh... yeh. my name is actually pronounced: (te·na·ret) not (the·rant), but you're not the first. I'm not from anywhere. My parents are spiritualists so they named me tnareht.
So, uh howz it going?
Well... I'm sick of this. That, blah, blah, blah Politics here, religion there. blah, blah, blow
K?
So what's so spiritual about your name? It means:
content soul
all righty
it's been real nice catching up. give me a call sometime. My name is in the phone book
1-800-GOOD BYE
Yeah right, that will happen. I don't even know your name
oh, sorry. Did I say that out loud?


COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH
BRIAN FUKUSHIMA
2000/2001
YES, IT'S A TRIBUTE TO THAT TECHNOLOGICAL WONDER...
BLOWMASTER
THE HOT AIR HAND DRYER
BUT I DIGRESS. THE REAL PROBLEM WITH THE SO-CALLED "HOT" AIR DRYERS [BESIDES THE FACT THAT THEY MAKE LOUSY POPCORN] IS THAT THEY JUST DON'T WORK! THEY'RE SELDOM MORE EFFECTIVE THAN A GENTLE SPRING BREEZE IN THE ALPS.
RICOLA-A-A-A
Now I'M ALL FOR THE HAND DRYER. IT DOESN'T WASTE PAPER, AND THE AUTOMATIC KIND KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF ONE MORE POTENTIALLY FILTHY PLACE
EGAD
ONLY GUY TO WASH HANDS TODAY
GOO?
BUT THERE ARE THOSE TIMES WHEN THE BATHROOM BACTERIA WARRANTS A WAD OF PAPER...
AND THE FUNNY THING IS, WHEN THERE IS A LINE-UP TO USE THE DAMN THING YOU HURRY SO THE NEXT PERSON CAN USE IT AND THEY HURRY, ETC...
SO REALLY, NOBODY'S HANDS ARE GETTING DRY AT ALL!
THE COOLEST THING ABOUT THE PAPER TOWEL DISPENSERS IS THE SIGN ON SOME THAT SAYS "EMERGENCY FEED ON SIDE." - EMERGENCY?
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM SON?
POLICE
CRANK
SO BASICALLY, IF YOU'RE WAITING IN LINE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST LEAVE WITH WET HANDS. AT LEAST THAT WAY SOME OF US WILL HAVE DRY HANDS!
YOU OWE ME, FUKUSHIMA!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU DIDN'T EVEN WASH YOUR HANDS!!
WWW.BENTCOMICS.COM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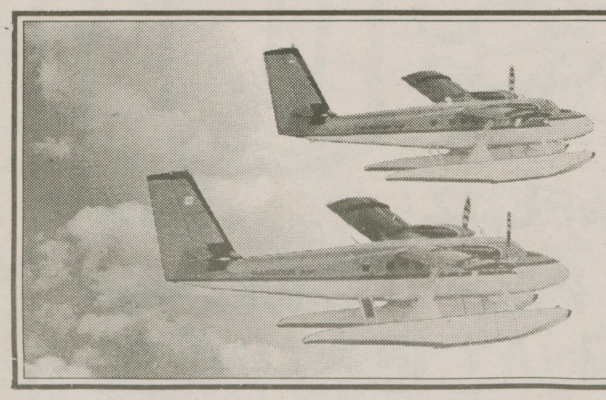
‡Based on a 48 month lease for Sunfire SL Coupe R7A. Total obligation is $10,992. Annual kilometre limit 20,000 km, $0.12 per excess kilometre. Option to purchase at lease end is $5,988. Other lease options available. ‡▲Freight included. License, insurance and taxes not included. ♦General Motors will pay first month's GMAC lease payment up too $500 inclusive of applicable taxes. Licence, insurance, and taxes not included. Certain taxes and administration fees may apply. "Drive away without paying" offer does not apply to purchase financing offer. ‡†▲For Sunfire the SmartLease monthly payment and the GMAC purchase finance rates are not available with and are not calculated on the "Cash Purchase" price shown. The difference between the price for the Smartlease/GMAC purchase finance offer and the "Cash Purchase" price offer is deemed under provincial disclosure laws to be a cost of borrowing, whether or not the same represents actual interest, and is required to be expressed as an actual percentage rate which is 9.14%. Offers apply only to new or demonstrator models of vehicles equipped as described and applies to qualified retail customers in BC Dealer Marketing Association area only. Dealer order or trade of 2002 models may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. Certain exceptions apply. See your local GM dealer(s) for conditions and details.



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